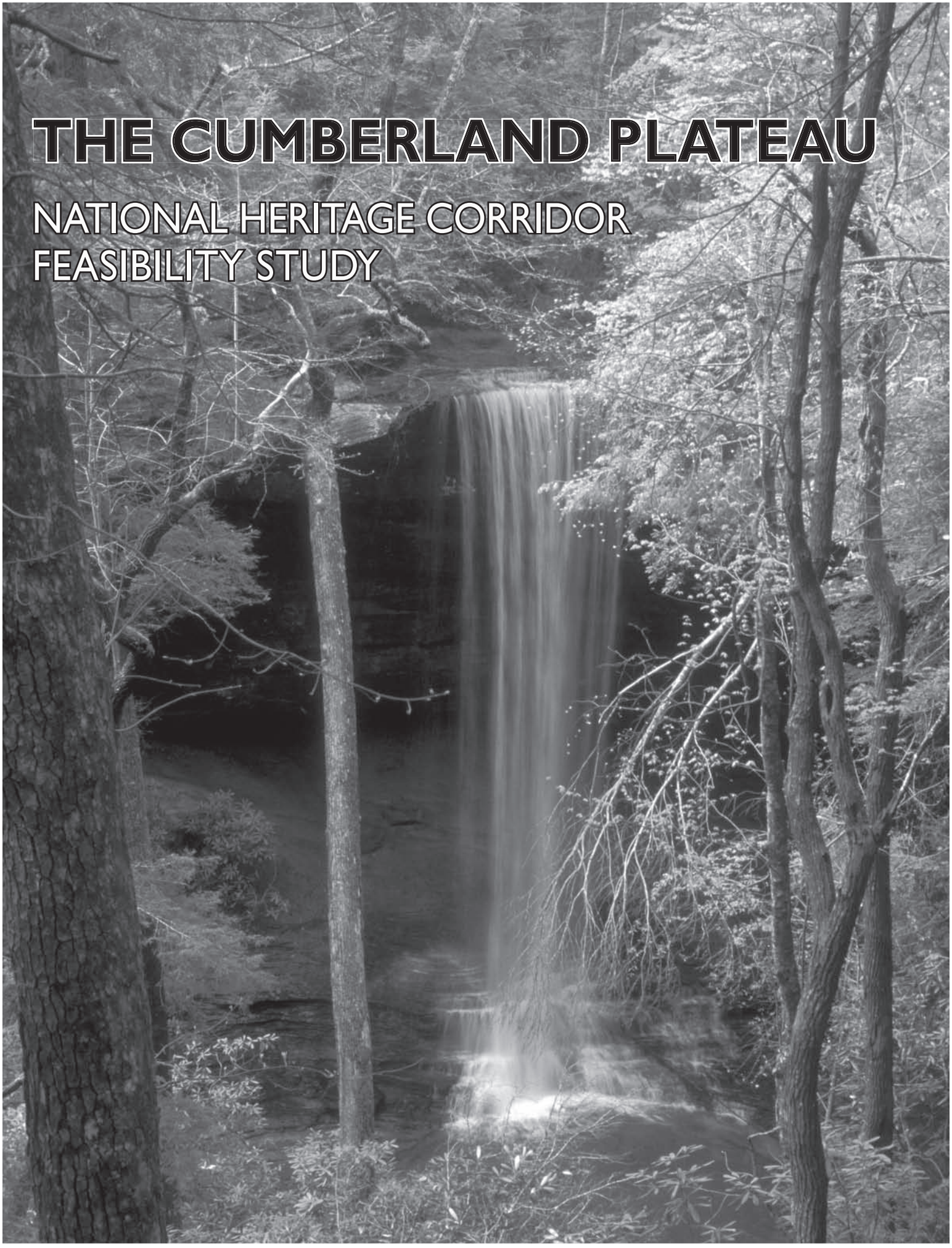

THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU

NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Cumberland Plateau Heritage Corridor

Feasibility Study and Assessment of Impacts for
National Heritage Corridor Designation

2006

Coordinating Entity for this Heritage Initiative:

The Alliance for the Cumberlands

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To see this report online and download a copy, please visit:
http:// www.tdec.net/recreation/cumberlandplateau.pdf

Pogue's Creek, a pristine gorge of outstanding scenic beauty in Pickett County. The preservation of this tract is a good example of the public/private partnerships which are working to protect the Cumberland Plateau's most outstanding resources. The land was first purchased by the Tennessee Nature Conservancy to prevent its being developed, and was later transferred to State ownership to be managed as part of Pickett State Park.

STATE OF TENNESSEE

PHIL BREDESEN
GOVERNOR

May 10, 2006

Brenda Barrett
National Heritage Areas Coordinator
United States Department of Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Barrett:

The State of Tennessee is pleased to support the proposed federal designation of the Cumberland Plateau as a National Heritage Corridor. We have partnered with the Alliance for the Cumberlands to develop this feasibility study because this heritage corridor initiative is an effective way to leverage many important conservation activities for the region, while at the same time increasing opportunities for sustainable economic development and protecting private property rights.

It is personally important to me to preserve and protect ecologically and culturally significant lands to benefit future generations. As this feasibility study documents, the outstanding resources of the Cumberland Plateau certainly qualify and deserve attention as a national treasure. The region teems with traditions and culture that reflect our nation's frontier history. It's a place with distinctive scenery, a great refuge of biological diversity and a recreational wonderland with nearly 600,000 acres of state and federal parklands.

We have a "once in a generation opportunity" to ensure that this national treasure is preserved. Last year the state established the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust to help us protect ecologically significant lands across Tennessee through acquisition, donation and easement activities, and I have directed this Fund to focus initially on the Cumberland Plateau. Achieving National Heritage Corridor status will complement the conservation efforts of the State and the many non-profit organizations in the region. It will help ensure that publicly protected lands contribute to local economic development through increased tourism and greater awareness of the region's unique identity.

Ultimately, local counties and communities along the Cumberland Plateau will choose their destiny and decide what they want their land to look like and how they want it to be used now and in the future. National Heritage Corridor designation will promote regional cooperation and public-private partnerships needed for success in this effort. The State of Tennessee is committed to this initiative and will be an active partner as it moves forward.

Warmest regards,

Phil Bredesen

State Capitol, Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0001
Telephone No. (615) 741-2001

SPECIAL THANKS

The Cumberland Plateau region owes a profound debt of gratitude to **John Rice Irwin**, founder and creator of the Museum of Appalachia. For over 50 years Mr. Irwin has worked steadily to preserve structures, artifacts, and implements that reflect the traditions of the pioneers. His vision and tenacity have produced a priceless record of the material culture of the Southern Appalachians which will benefit heritage research and education for years to come. His achievement has ensured that the resourcefulness and craft of the our Southern Appalachian forbears will continue to receive the appreciation they deserve.

Bob Fulcher, Head Ranger for the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park deserves special recognition for his immensely valuable contribution to this study. His personal collection of folklore, stories, photographs and illustrations, and musical field recordings represents an unparallelled storehouse of knowledge about the culture of this region. His unpublished CD, *Sandrock and Pine Rosin*, is a brilliant recounting of the story of the Plateau through its native songs. The Alliance for the Cumberlands commends him for his tireless efforts in discovering and preserving many cultural treasures which would otherwise have been lost.

The Alliance for the Cumberlands would also like to express special thanks to **Byron Jorjorian** for donating his excellent photographs for use both in this report and in public presentations during the planning stage. Byron's sensitivity in capturing the rugged character and subtle beauties of the Plateau has helped bring many people to a greater awareness of the region's unique qualities and the need to protect its precious resources.

The development and printing of this report were financed in part through a planning grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior, under provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578 as amended), with additional funding from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's Wildlife Fund, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation's State Planning & Research funds provided under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act—a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU.)

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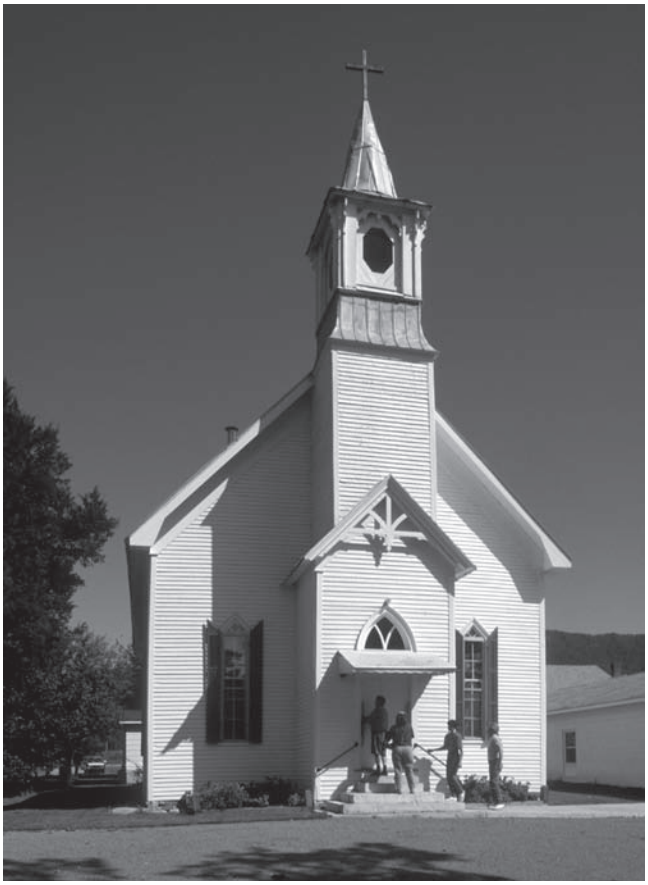


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Feasibility Study is the product of a planning and research process which was undertaken by the Alliance for the Cumberlands, the regional non-profit organization which is sponsoring organization for this heritage initiative, in partnership with the State of Tennessee. The primary purpose of this study was to determine whether the Cumberland Plateau region of Tennessee meets the Federal criteria for designation as a National Heritage Corridor. The planning process included a comprehensive inventory of the region's natural, historical and cultural resources and active participation by a wide range of stakeholders. The overall conclusions of this study are that the region does meet the Federal criteria and that the local residents are in favor of such a designation and are prepared to support its implementation.

Federal Criteria for National Heritage Areas

With introduction of the National Heritage Partnership Act (H. R. 760 and S.243.RS), Congress has shown leadership in promulgating a uniform set of Federal standards and provisions to ensure the integrity of the National Park Service's National Heritage Areas program. These criteria are used to determine the national significance, suitability and feasibility of a proposed National Heritage Area. Each criterion is specifically addressed in this study, as summarized in the following section.

1. The area has an assemblage of natural, historic, cultural, educational, scenic, or recreational resources that together are nationally important to the heritage of the United States.

The extraordinary array of heritage resources found in Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau region include some of the highest diversity of plant and animal species in the nation, unique geology of great scenic beauty, an outstanding assemblage of high-quality public parklands and natural areas, and a collection of nationally significant cultural and historic resources ranging from prehistory to the Atomic Age. These features and resources exist within in a cohesive landscape which represents a rare remnant of the natural and cultural fabric of the Old Southwest frontier.

FACING PAGE TOP: The gorge of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, a nationally important resource which received federal protection through the persistent efforts of local residents and the leadership of Senator Howard Baker.

Factors indicating the national importance of this assemblage of resources are presented in Chapter 5, pages 73-80

The region's assemblage of resources is described in greater detail in Chapter 4, pages 25-70.

2. The area represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use.

The Cumberland Plateau represents an aspect of our national heritage which is central to the entire American experience - the story of the frontier: how the wilderness environment appeared to the first pioneer explorers and settlers, how early settlers adapted the skills and culture needed to survive in the natural environment, how these settlers interacted and often clashed with the contrasting plantation and industrial cultures of the lowlands, how the idea of the vanishing "unspoiled frontier" inspired a wide variety of idealistic enterprises, and how understanding and appreciation of the frontier commons and the culture that it has supported have evolved over time. The Cumberland Plateau is one of the few remaining places where the role of the Southern Appalachian frontier in our history and heritage can still be experienced, interpreted, studied, and preserved.

The distinctive aspects of this culture are presented in Chapter 5, pages 77-79.

The region's frontier-related heritage and the resources which illustrate and embody it are described in greater detail in Chapter 4, pages 26-41.

3. The area is best managed as ... an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities at the local or regional level, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.

The cultural cohesiveness of the region and its distinctive biology and geology give the entire Cumberland Plateau corridor a distinctive sense of place. Unfortunately, the Plateau's special identity and culture have been obscured in the past by the lack of a region-wide planning entity. The result has been fragmentation of programs and stakeholders, each concerned with one particular piece of the whole with little coordination among them. This study has concluded that the best way to meet the goals of this heritage initiative is to provide the whole region with a unified identity, preferably through a formal designation, and to coordinate the many sites and programs through a regional management entity.

The value of managing the region's resources as an assemblage is presented in Chapter 5, pages 81-89.

Four management alternatives are assessed in Chapter 6, pages 99-103.

4. The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the heritage of the United States.

Scholarly research indicates a substantial body of traditions and folkways derived from the region's valuable frontier heritage which have been passed down and are still practiced in the corridor. These include hunting and foraging in the forest commons, pioneer era skills and crafts, old-time music, and strong traditions of faith. This study has identified 47 venues for old time music, both secular and sacred, and 71 traditional celebrations and festivals which are keeping these old traditions alive in the region.

An assessment of the value and viability of the region's cultural traditions is presented in Chapter 5, pages 77-79.

The region's cultural traditions and opportunities to experience them are described in greater detail in Chapter 4, pages 32-41.

5. The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historical, cultural, or scenic features.

This study has identified a total of 65 separate agencies or organizations with programs aimed at preserving various aspects of the heritage resources of the Plateau region, including significant investments by federal agencies. The existence of so many preservation- and conservation-oriented initiatives in a single region is due to the Plateau's exceptional array of natural, cultural, and historic features, especially its globally important biodiversity. The persistence of the large forest commons and of the frontier culture which has depended upon it represents a rare opportunity to preserve significant natural and cultural features intact. Recognizing this fact, the entities which are already working to protect the Plateau's environment and culture have committed to working together in partnership under the umbrella of a National Heritage Corridor designation.

An assessment of opportunities for conservation are described in Chapter 5, pages 81-89.

6. The area provides outstanding recreational or educational opportunities.

The study area contains a total of 594,000 acres of public lands which provide an outstanding array of recreational opportunities. These include five National Park units; 91 State Parks, Natural Areas, Scenic Rivers, State Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas; 1,050 miles of trails; approximately 700 miles of State Scenic Parkways and State Bike Trails; and eight major reservoirs covering a total of 182,727 acres. Many of these recreation areas also offer excellent programs interpreting the region's natural, historical, and cultural heritage. In addition, two nationally significant museums and scores of small local museums offer numerous educational opportunities.

Recreational opportunities are described in Chapter 5, pages 73-76.

Educational opportunities are described in Chapter 5, page 80.

7. The area has resources and traditional uses that have national importance. The term "national importance" means possession of —

• Unique natural, historical, cultural, educational, scenic, or recreational resources of exceptional value or quality; and

• A high degree of integrity of location, setting, or association in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States.

The corridor contains many resources that have already been federally designated as nationally important. These include seven National Natural Landmarks, four National Historic Landmarks, five National Park System units and one NPS affiliated area, and critical habitat areas for 55 federally listed species. In addition, the region possesses numerous nationally or

regionally significant sites which should be considered nationally important as a group by virtue of their integrity and unique association in illustrating the frontier heritage of the nation. These resources include State conservation and recreation lands totaling 510,000 acres, 129 sites on the National Register of Historic Places which are accessible to the public, and two nationally prominent museums — the Museum of Appalachia and the Museum of Science and Energy.

A summary of the region's nationally important resources is presented in Chapter 5, pages 73-76.

These resources are presented in greater detail in Chapter 4, pages 25-69.

8. Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments (including relevant Federal land management agencies) within the proposed area are involved in the planning and have demonstrated significant support through letters and other means for National Heritage Area designation and management.

The process of preparing this feasibility study has included 14 public presentations and numerous private meetings with local government and business leaders, landowner organizations, conservation and historic preservation organizations, and Federal and State agency personnel. Residents of the region and partnering agencies and organizations have expressed enthusiastic support for a National Heritage Corridor designation and a willingness to work in partnership in implementing such a corridor.

The public involvement in this planning process is described in Chapter 5, pages 90-91.

9. The local coordinating entity responsible for preparing and implementing the management plan is identified.

The Alliance for the Cumberlands is the sponsor for the initial stages of this heritage initiative and will have the responsibility to formally establish the coordinating entity for a National Heritage Corridor. This study's stakeholder meetings have addressed options for this entity, and the proposed organization which has emerged from these discussions is a non-profit organization reflecting broad stakeholder representation.

The local coordinating entity is identified in Chapter 5 page 92 .

10. The proposed local coordinating entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing and have documented a significant commitment to work in partnership to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop resources within the National Heritage Area.

Units of government that will be involved in the activities of the proposed Cumberland Plateau Heritage Corridor include five Federal agencies, six agencies of State government and 21 county governments. The proposed local coordinating entity for the corridor will include representatives of each of these agencies, ensuring a strong working partnership. All of these have passed resolutions or sent letters of support or verbally expressed significant commitments to coordinating their efforts to achieve the goals of this corridor initiative.

Partnerships for the proposed heritage corridor are described in Chapter 5, page 93.

A list of supporting partners is presented in Appendix 2, pages 128 and 129.

11. The proposed local coordinating entity has developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants (including the Federal Government) in the management of the National Heritage Area.

The Alliance for the Cumberlands has developed a conceptual financial plan with strong emphasis on leveraging existing programs through partnerships with Federal and State agencies and on maximizing involvement of local, grassroots organizations.

The conceptual financial plan is presented in Chapter 5, pages 94-95.

12. The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity within the area.

The impact assessment component of this feasibility study has examined the possible economic impacts of four alternative approaches for this heritage corridor initiative, in terms of both direct revenue benefits and broader impacts on the region's existing economy. It has been concluded that a National Heritage Corridor designation will increase economic activity in the corridor and will have no negative impact on existing activities

A summary of potential impacts of National Heritage Corridor designation on the region's continued economic activity is presented in Chapter 5, page 96.

An assessment of economic impacts is presented in detail in Chapter 6, pages 104-110.

13. A conceptual boundary map has been developed and is supported by the public and participating Federal agencies.

Maps of the 21-county region comprising the proposed Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor have been displayed at public and stakeholder meetings and in literature that has been widely disseminated. These boundaries have received the support of local residents and leaders and of all units of the National Park Service located within the corridor.

The corridor map is presented on page 97.

Impact Assessment Conclusions

This study includes an assessment of socioeconomic and environmental impacts of National Heritage Corrridor designation as well as State Heritage Corridor designation and a private-sector initiative. The conclusions are that the National Heritage Corridor option would provide the greatest economic benefits, with a total of $58.18 million in total impacts annually. It would also provide the highest level of funding and leverage to support environmental protection, historic preservation, and cultural conservation.

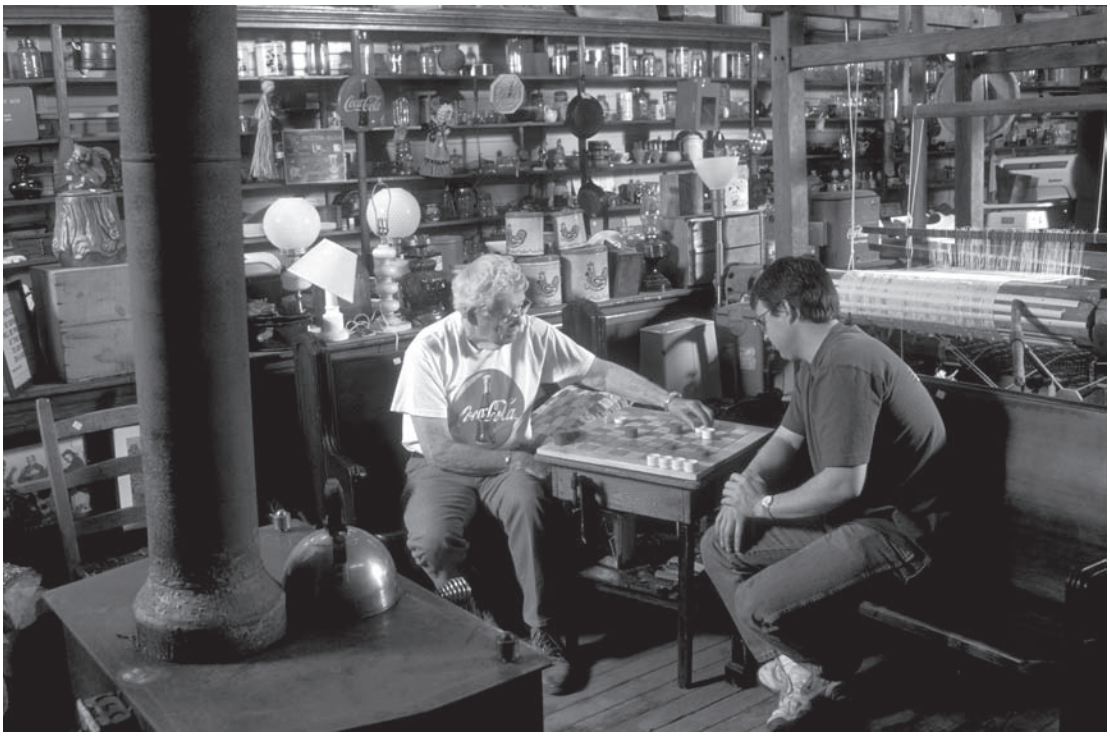
This impact assessment also concludes that, given the current challenges to the region's natural, historical, and cultural resources, immediate designation of a State Heritage Corridor is advisable as an effective interim strategy until a National Heritage Corridor bill can be enacted. This option would provide an estimated $19 million in economic impacts annually . It would also would formalize critical public/private partnerships and provide greater efficiency through region-wide coordination of programs and organizations.

The assessment of impacts ispresented in Chapter 6, pages 99-118.

Goals of this Heritage Corridor Initiative

The Alliance for the Cumberlands has adopted the following goals for the proposed Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor:

1. To promote a stewardship vision for the region that places history, culture and nature in the context of a distinctive, nationally significant regional identity.
2. To keep the region's cultural traditions viable through research, education, community revitalization, and protection of the working landscape.
3. To maintain the region's globally important biodiversity through protection of unique and critical habitats, including rivers and streams, caves, and large tracts of native forest.
4. To preserve, restore and interpret the region's many important historical and archaeological sites.
5. To provide public education about the importance of the region's natural, historic, and cultural resources and the need to conserve them.
6. To increase public awareness and enjoyment of the region's outstanding scenic beauty and recreational opportunities.
7. To enhance economic opportunity in the region through sensitive, sustainable ecotourism and heritage-based tourism and through support for traditional uses of the land.
8. To establish a formal, active partnership between State and Federal agencies and the heritage corridor's local coordinating entity; and to enable coordinated, interagency strategies to conserve the region's nationally important resources.



Forbus General Store in Pickett County, still functions as the area's social center.

CHAPTER 1: PROJECT BACKGROUND

Tennesseans Outdoors

The concept of a special heritage corridor for the Cumberland Plateau first surfaced during public workshops held in preparation of the *Tennesseans Outdoors Plan* in 1985. This plan was the State's component of the Americans Outdoors planning process, chaired by Lamar Alexander, who was then governor of Tennessee. Public input at the Tennesseans Outdoors workshops called for the plateau to be formally designated as a "regional recreational corridor." It was proposed that the region should have a local coordinating body and a plan to coordinate recreation, transportation, resource protection, and tourism marketing throughout the whole corridor. Recognizing that private landowners would continue to control the majority of the lands in the corridor, this proposal suggested the need for landowner incentives, including tax abatements, recreation leases, and conservation easements. The Tennesseans Outdoors plan also called for increased development and protection for the region's cultural heritage, in the form of heritage trails.

In the years since this landmark plan was published, many of its proposals have come into being. The Trail of Tears was identified as worthy of special attention, and that trail is now being implemented, in cooperation with the National Park Service, as a National Historic Trail. The Carter lands, a very large block of undeveloped tracts which Tennesseans Outdoors identified as an area of special concern, continued to receive attention as an outstanding resource. Several sections of the Carter lands are now being acquired by the State as conservation lands.

Tennessee State Recreation Plan

During preparation of Tennessee's *2004-2008 State Recreation Plan,* public input once again requested special recognition of the Cumberland Plateau as an exceptional region of the state. The plan incorporates this input in a proposal to develop the plateau as a "recreational development corridor." This proposal calls for the State to support and help coordinate several initiatives that are already underway in the region under the auspices of the Tennessee Nature Conservancy, the Alliance for the Cumberlands, the Friends of South Cumberland State Recreation Area, and many other organizations. *(A list of the corridor's conservation and preservation organizations appears in Chapter Five, pages 84-89)* The goals of this proposal are:

1. To organize, brand, and market sustainable nature-based, heritage-based, and agriculture-based recreation opportunities while protecting and preserving the recreation resources of the region;

2. To bring new tourism revenues and business activity to the local economies;

3. To counter the increasing development pressures on the recreation assets of the region by providing strong economic incentives to protect the resources on which economic growth depends; and

4. To provide a mechanism for helping local residents to add definition, value and pride to their cultural traditions and folkways, giving them added protection from the pressures of a changing society.

To implement this proposal, the *State Recreation Plan* calls for a cooperative effort by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Tennessee Depart-

ment of Tourism Development, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, the region's Development Districts, and the Resource Conservation and Development Councils. It encourages active participation and input from local business groups, non-profit organizations, and residents of the corridor. Federal designation of a Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor is suggested as an option to be considered in implementing this proposal.

Alliance for the Cumberlands

Not long after publication of the *State Recreation Plan*, the Alliance for the Cumberlands (AFC) offered to become the local sponsoring entity for implementing the plan's Cumberland Plateau corridor proposal. The AFC steering committee voted to seek National Heritage Corridor designation for the region. Members of the organization proposed to the Governor of Tennessee that, in light of the region's outstanding resources and the critical challenges they are facing, the State should provide initial funding to prepare a Feasibility Study for the Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor. The Governor directed that such funds should be provided jointly by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

While many other heritage area candidates have spent years developing the local organizational capacity needed to move forward, the Cumberland Plateau region was very fortunate in having such an organization already in place. The Alliance for the Cumberlands was formed in 2004 by Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning, an Oak-Ridge-based organization with deep roots in the plateau region. The AFC was designed to serve as a locally-based regional partnership of public and private organizations unified in a commitment to protect the Cumberland Mountains and Plateau Region of Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, West Virginia and Virginia. The organization encourages public participation and seeks to address the concerns and wishes of the widest possible range of stakeholders through a non-adversarial forum. The mission of the AFC is "to bring people together to achieve the ecological and economic sustainability of natural and human communities in the Cumberlands region."

AFC Goals

The Alliance for the Cumberlands has formally adopted the following goals for the organization:

- Conserve and restore the lands and waters of the Cumberland Plateau; protect the area's unique natural, cultural and recreational resources; and foster sustainable forestry and agricultural practices.
- Educate the public about the need for conservation of the Plateau's wildlands and natural resources.
- Promote sustainable human communities and wise stewardship of natural resources on the Cumberland Plateau.

AFC Members

The organization's diverse representation reflects the kind of cooperative, public/private partnerships required for a successful heritage area. Membership has expanded to include representatives of the region's government and business interests, who will be vital to the success of this project. The following organizations and agencies are currently members of the AFC:

Government Agencies:

Alabama A&M University, Center for Forestry and Ecology
Cordell Hull Birthplace State Park
Cumberland County, Tennessee
Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky
Franklin County, Tennessee

The harnessmaker's shop at the Museum of Appalachia.

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission
Pickett County, Tennessee
Pickett State Park
Sgt. Alvin C. York State Park
Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Natural Heritage
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Field Office
U.S. Forest Service
University of Tennessee, Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries

Non-profit Organizations:

Borderlands Foundation
Cumberland Trail Conference
Emory River Watershed Association
Friends of Big South Fork NRRA, Inc.
Friends of Cordell Hull
Friends of South Cumberland
Historic Rugby
Kentucky Natural Lands Trust
Land Trust for Tennessee
National Parks Conservation Association
New Heritage Research
Obed Watershed Community Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Round to It Recordings
Save Our Cumberland Mountains
Southern Environmental Law Center
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Tennessee Forestry Association
Tennessee Ornithological Society
Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation
Tennessee Preservation Trust
Tennessee Wildlife Federation
The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky Chapter
The Nature Conservancy, Tennessee Chapter
Upper Cumberland Development District
Upper Cumberland Tourism Association

AFC's Long-Term Role

The AFC's region of interest extends beyond Tennessee to include the Cumberland Plateau and Mountain regions of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia. Accordingly, the ultimate goal of the AFC is to hand off management of the heritage corridor in Tennessee to a new entity established specifically for that purpose. The AFC will then play an advisory role, using its broad stakeholder representation to keep the coordinating entity well informed about issues and ideas that concern the corridor.

Reflecting its wide geographic range, the AFC steering committee has voted to seek close cooperation between the Tennessee corridor and the other existing and proposed heritage corridors in the Southern Appalachian region: the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, the Coal National Heritage Area, the proposed Kentucky Highlands and Lakes National Heritage Area, the proposed Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area, and the heritage corridor projects of southwestern Virginia. Likewise, the AFC steering committee has resolved to forge a strong partnership between the Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, which overlays the Plateau.

Center Hill Reservoir on the Caney Fork River.

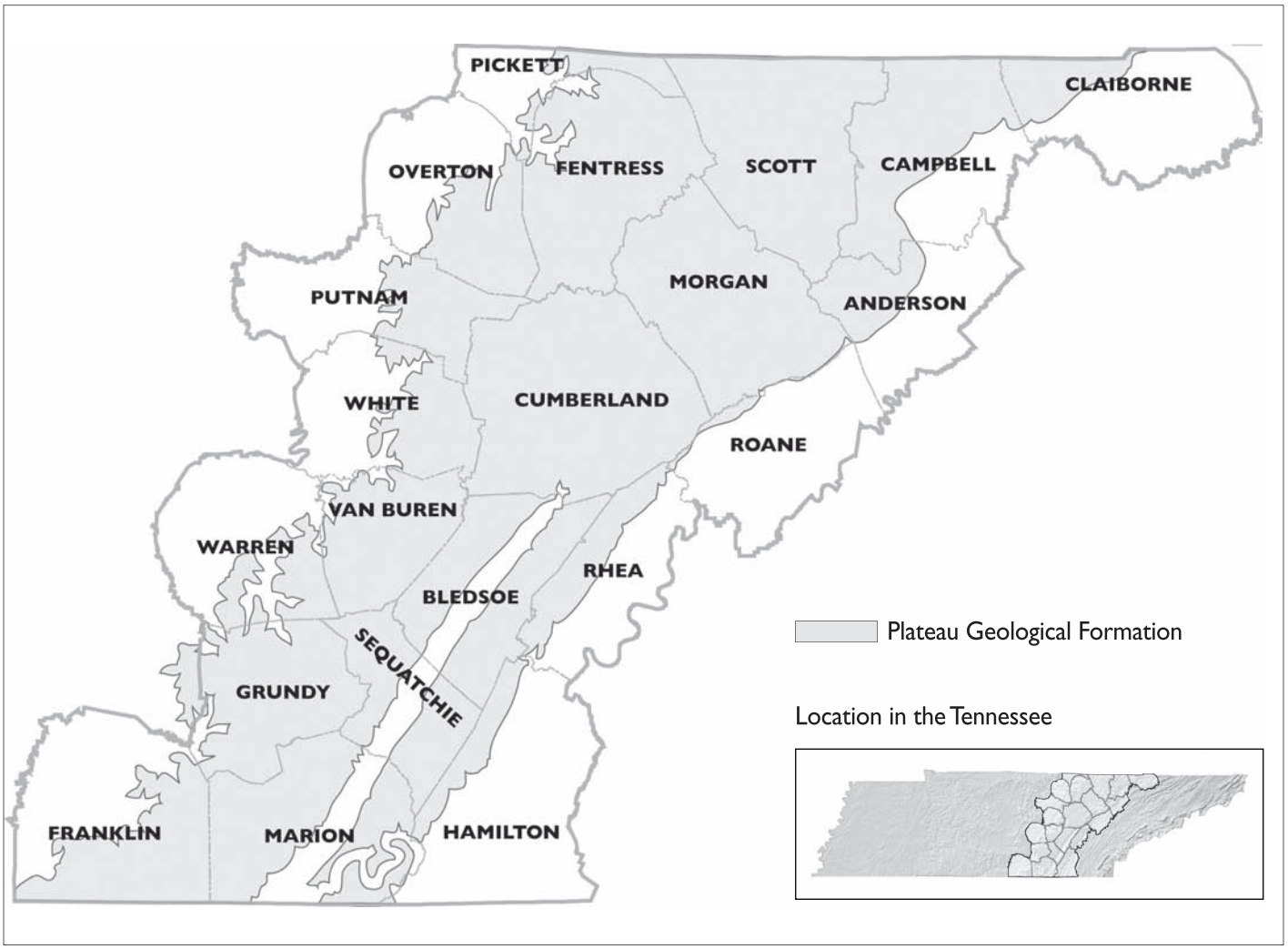
CHAPTER 2: OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA

Boundaries of the Proposed National Heritage Corridor

The study area for this feasibility study has been defined to include all the counties which lie entirely or partially within the Cumberland Plateau geological formation. Following that definition, the corridor contains the following 21 Tennessee counties:

Anderson	Franklin	Overton	Scott
Bledsoe	Grundy	Pickett	Sequatchie
Campbell	Hamilton	Putnam	Van Buren
Claiborne	Marion	Rhea	Warren
Cumberland	Morgan	Roane	White
Fentress			

Cumberland Plateau Heritage Corridor Boundary Map



ABOVE: The Walls of Jericho, a unique tract with outstanding biodiversity, protected through a partnership of the Tennessee Nature Conservancy and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

FACING PAGE: Sorghum grinding as practiced for over a century.

Population and Densities

The 21 counties of the study area had a total 2000 U.S. Census estimated population of 892,942. This was an increase of 12.4% over the 1990 population. Between 1950 and 2000 the region's total population grew by 46.6%.

The region's total land area of 8,872 square miles has an average population density of 103 persons per square mile. The population densities of the individual counties are as follows:

County	Pop./sq. mi.
Hamilton	567.6
Anderson	211.3
Putnam	155.4
Roane	143.8
Rhea	89.9
Warren	88.5
Campbell	83.0
Claiborne	68.8
Cumberland	68.7
White	61.3
Marion	55.6
Overton	46.4
Sequatchie	42.8
Grundy	39.7
Scott	39.7
Morgan	37.8
Fentress	33.3
Franklin	71.0
Bledsoe	30.4
Pickett	30.4
Van Buren	20.1

In the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural-Urban Continuum, the corridor's counties fall into the following categories:

Counties in a metro area of 250,000 to 1 million population:

Anderson
Hamilton
Marion
Sequatchie

Non-metro counties where more than 20,000 are urban dwellers:

Putnam
Roane

Non-metro counties where fewer than 20,000 are urban dwellers:

Cumberland
Franklin
Monroe
Morgan
Overton
Rhea
Scott
Warren
White

Completely rural counties (with no urban dwellers):

Bledsoe
Grundy
Fentress
Pickett
Van Buren

Socio-Economics and Demographics

Like many areas which have united behind heritage area initiatives, the Cumberland Plateau region has been losing its traditional economic base. Between 1990 and 2000, employment in farming and forestry declined by 72.5%, according to U.S. Census data. The region still has a total of 14,408 farms covering a total of 1.6 million acres. The large majority of these farms cover between 10 and 179 acres.

Employment by sector in the region is as follows:

Production/transport	28.9%
Management/professional	22.1%
Sales/office	21.3%
Service	13.5%
Construction/extraction	12.6%
Farming and forestry	1.4%

The Census 2000 unemployment rate for the corridor as a whole was 5.2%, ranging from 10.8% in Morgan County to 2.8% in Anderson County.

Average median household income for the 21 counties was $29,352, ranging from a high of $38,930 in Hamilton County to a low of $22,959 in Grundy County. The median income for Tennessee as a whole was $36,360.

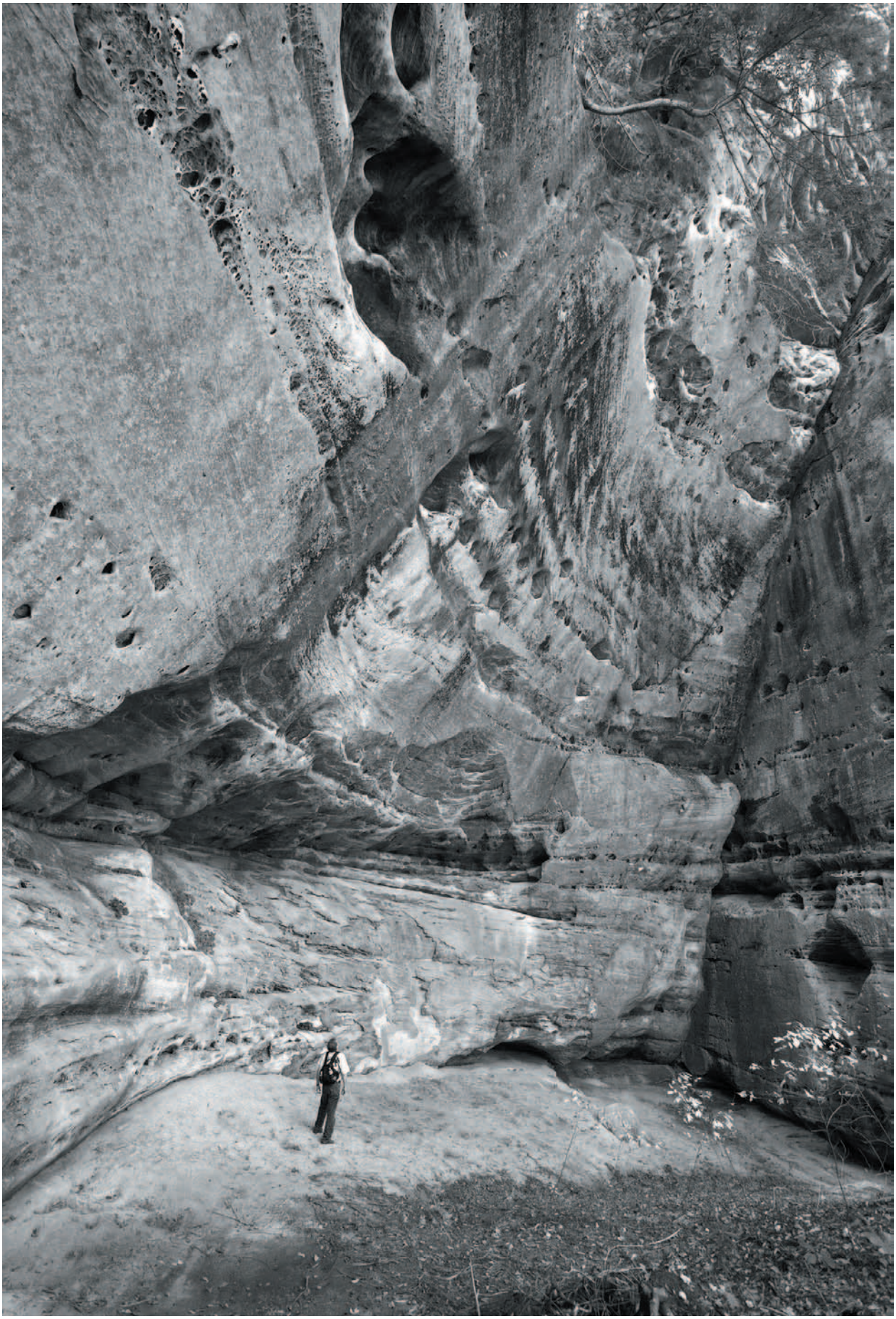
Average per capita income for these counties was $19,883, ranging from a high of $29,761 in Hamilton County to a low of $16,582 in Scott County. For Tennessee as a whole, average per capita income was $25,945.

The average percentage of persons below the poverty line in the 21 counties was 16.9%, ranging from a high of 25.8% in Grundy County to a low of 12.1% in Hamilton County.

Four of the counties – Campbell, Fentress, Grundy, and Scott, and - are designated as Distressed Counties by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The racial profile of the study area's Census 2000 population was as follows:

Caucasian	89%
African-American	8.31%
Hispanic	1.5%
Native American	0.3%

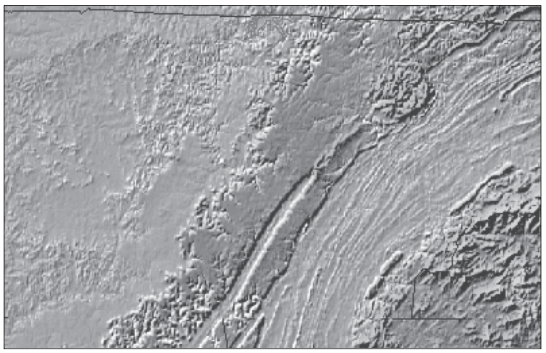


A "rockhouse" in Pogue's Creek.

CHAPTER 3: GEOLOGY OF THE PLATEAU

The following description is excerpted from Edward T. Luther, Our Restless Earth, *University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, 1977, amd used with permission from the University of Tennessee Press.*

When Daniel Boone went hunting westward beyond Cumberland Gap in the 1760s, he was gone for months…And when James Robertson led his advance guard of settlers to the Cumberland River bluffs in 1779, they sent the women and children, together with the heavy farm equipment, by flatboat down the Holston and Tennessee rivers and on to the Ohio River, up the Ohio to the Cumberland, and up the Cumberland to Nashville. Unlike Boone, the flatboat flotilla was unlikely to go the long way around just to enjoy the scenery. There was a compelling reason for the devious routes to Middle Tennessee and Kentucky. Standing athwart the direct path like the Great Wall of China, but a hundred times higher and 50 miles across, is the Cumberland Plateau, a very real barrier to western migration in the eighteenth century. No roads crossed it, and only a few foot paths like the great Warrior's Path through the Cumberland Gap gave access to the interior. Both the Boone and Robertson parties traveled through Cumberland Gap and across that "dark and bloody ground," Kentucky – Boone to turn

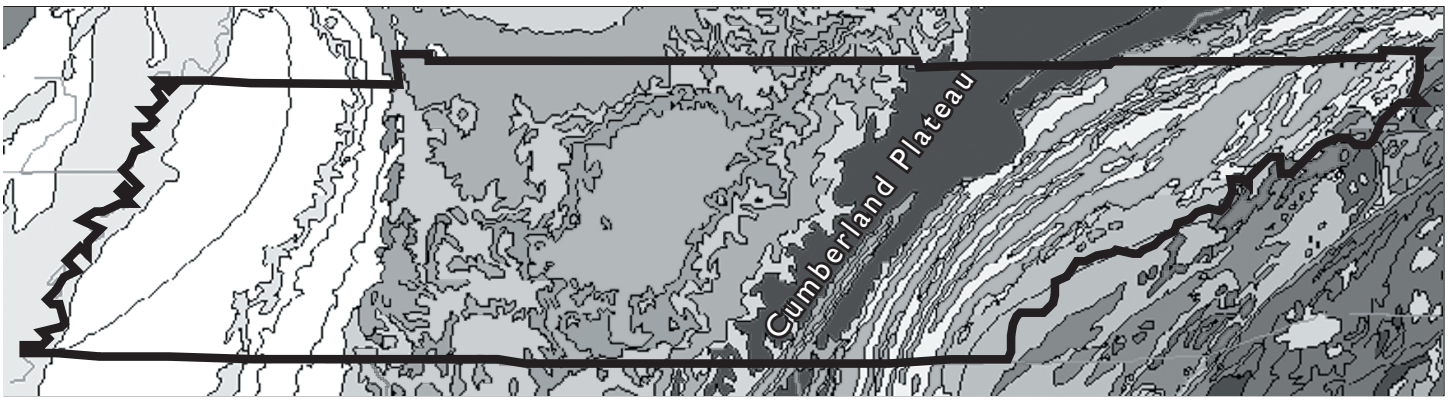


north along the Wilderness Road, Robertson south to Middle Tennessee. For many years people preferred to go around rather than across the plateau, and even today the building of roads across the plateau presents unique difficulties.

What kind of feature is this that so inconvenienced our ancestors? The Cumberland Plateau is … a part of the Appalachian Plateau that extends in a southwesterly direction all the way from the southern border of New York to central Alabama, crossing ten states on the way. Its character differs considerably over this great distance, and in fact within Tennessee itself.

Most people become acquainted with the plateau itself by crossing it on I-40 between Nashville and Knoxville or on I-24 at Monteagle. They see a broad, flat-topped ridge one thousand feet higher than the Great Valley of

Range of the Cumberland Plateau Geological Formation



East Tennessee to the east or the Highland Rim to the west. Rimming the plateau edge is an almost continuous line of cliffs, broken by narrow, steep-walled, stream-cut notches running back into the tableland.

The Tennessee portion of the Appalachian Plateau embraces about 4,30 square miles, about one-tenth of the state's area. Along the Kentucky-Virginia line the plateau is about 55 miles wide, but it gradually narrows to 38 miles near Chattanooga.

The very different appearance of the eastern and western edges of the plateau shows the effect of geology on topography. The eastern edge is an abrupt escarpment, straight to smoothly curving and only slightly notched by drainage that empties eastward into the Tennessee River. The western edge is very ragged and deeply incised by the Cumberland, Duck, and Elk river tributaries that drain it. Why the difference? The answer has to do with early compressional forces, the results of which show up dramatically on the plateau. Hard rock layers were folded…during the Appalachian mountain-building episode 250 million years ago, near the end of the Paleozoic era. These forces, originating somewhere east of the Appalachian mountain chain, reached far enough to the west to bend the eastern edge of the plateau, but not the western. All along the eastern edge the rocks were folded or broken (or both), so that the same rock layers that form the flat-lying rimrock to the west are tilted in the east, in some places even standing vertically in towering crags and pinnacles. Where the escarpment is thus armored with sloping sandstone layers, erosion is slowed, and the shape of the escarpment is controlled by the direction of the folds. This factor is almost completely absent from the western part of the plateau.

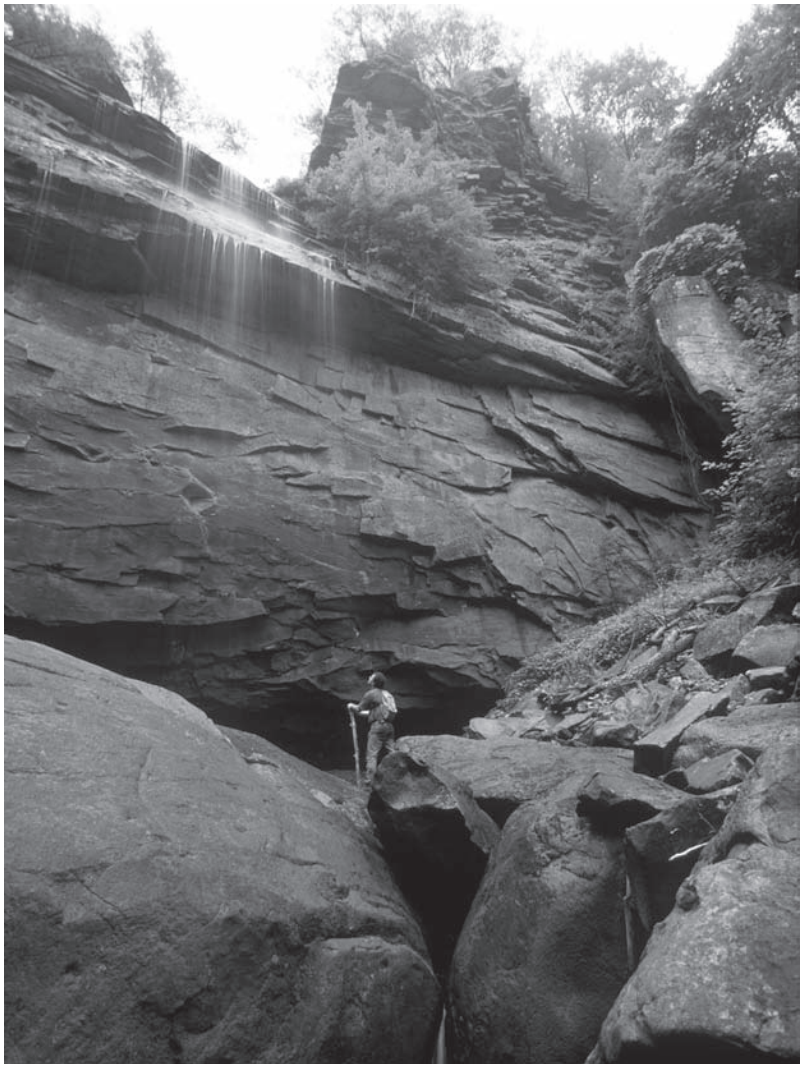
Mountain-building forces are also responsible, indirectly, for topographic differences within the plateau. Tight folding was largely restricted to the eastern edge of the plateau, but elsewhere the rock was compressed to the point of breaking – which it did. Large-scale breaks reduced the stresses, and great masses of rock moved along these breaks – properly called faults – for as much as 10 miles... Much of the top surface of the plateau has, in fact, been thrust upward and to the northwest along such faults. The entire group of faults that together form the boundary of the displaced part of the plateau is called the Cumberland Plateau Overthrust fault. It is not a single, simple break, but a complex, interwoven system of faults along which some parts of the plateau moved very little, but other moved for great distances….

Sequatchie Valley, the beautiful, almost ruler-straight chasm that bisects the southern half of the plateau in Tennessee, also owes its origin to faulting and folding. First came the fault, which is one of the subsidiary breaks in the Cumberland Plateau Overthrust system. Rock from the southeast was pushed up and over rock to the northwest along a 180-mile break on the west side of Sequatchie Valley. Movement totaled thousands of feet, and the enormous over-riding block was folded into an arch or anticline. At the north end of Sequatchie Valley the arch is still topographically high (Crab Orchard Mountains), but over most of its length it was so fractured and jointed by the bending that erosion has found it easy prey and scooped it out into a long, linear valley.

Sequatchie Valley and the Crab Orchard Mountains form a convenient line for subdividing the plateau. That part of the plateau west of Sequatchie Valley is called by the name commonly applied to the whole, the Cumberland Plateau. That part of the plateau east of Sequatchie Valley is called Walden Ridge, named for Elijah Walden, one of the famous "Long Hunters" of the Daniel Boone era. Two other subdivisions of the plateau in Tennessee also owe their distinctive character, at least in part, to Appalachian mountain-building. These are the Cumberland Mountains and the neighboring Cumberland block.

In the gorge of the Pogue's Creek tract.

The topography of the plateau also exhibits many interesting features smaller in scale than the ones that differentiate regions. Most are caused by the differing resistance to erosion of various kinds of rock. The sides of the plateau itself, the escarpments, are good examples. The vertical bluffs are formed from hard, resistant sandstone that also makes a flat top for the plateau. Below, underlying the gentler lower slopes, are shales and limestones. At almost any place you approach the plateau, if you can get a glimpse of the profile of a slope on some spur, you will see that it forms a…graph of the hardness of the rocks beneath the slope; the steeper the slope, the harder the rock. The profile is so characteristic that photographs of different promontories, if taken from the same angle and distance, can be superimposed and only minor differences noted.



Because of the kinds of rock over which the streams flow, there are probably more waterfalls on the plateau than any area of similar size in the state. Above the sandstone that forms the rim of the plateau are successively higher layers of sandstone or conglomerate separated by layers of softer, more easily eroded shale. Wherever a stream flows over the edge of a sandstone layer and digs deep into the underlying shale, a pool is scooped out. Eddies and currents set up in the pool by the swift-flowing water undercut the edge of the sandstone layer, which breaks off into a vertical face. The pool is now a plunge basin, with a waterfall on one side. This process is especially characteristic of plateau streams, many of which have waterfall after waterfall along their courses as the stream cuts through successive layers of sandstone, each with its accompanying plunge basin. There are, incidentally, very fine natural "swimming holes." Some of the waterfalls on the plateau are famous scenic attractions, in particular Fall Creek Falls in Van Buren county. At 256 feet in height, it is reputed to be the highest falls in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, and more than twice as high as Niagara Falls.

The character of the Cumberland Plateau has changed surprisingly little since the days of the Long Hunters, despite the multitudinous activities of man. The timber has been cut again and again, but continues, under modern management, to grow back. Roads now crisscross its surface, but make only a slight impression on its vastness. In some areas coal-mining has scarred the land, but even this … can eventually be brought under control and the scars healed, if man and nature work together toward that end. Yet still, as of old, the plateau manages to slow or stop man's restless wandering. Occasionally, as at Rockwood Mountain or at Jellico, the mountain shrugs its shoulder and another of our expensive superhighways goes sliding down the slope.

CHAPTER 4: KEY INTERPRETIVE THEMES AND RESOURCES

In the cultural research phase of this study, long-time Cumberland Plateau residents and scholars in history and Appalachian Studies were asked to express what they would consider to be distinctive characteristics of the region's identity. In their responses, a group of related words were repeated frequently: "refuge," "preserve," "sanctuary," and "island." These words suggested that, in interpreting the complex heritage of the Cumberland Plateau, the unifying theme should articulate the region's identity as a place where natural and cultural elements which have disappeared elsewhere have been miraculously preserved. This simple premise pointed the way toward an exploration of the region's roots in the frontier.

After Thomas Walker first surveyed the Cumberland Gap in 1750, the Cumberland Plateau became an important part of colonial America's southwestern frontier. In the intervening 250 years, tides of transformation flowed around and over the Plateau, yet many essential frontier characteristics survived there. Scholarly research in the region's folkways, most notably Benita Howell's *Folklife along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River,* confirms the continued existence of a rich array of pioneer-era lore, practices and attitudes in the northern Cumberland Plateau. The forest commons, on which the original settlers depended for much of their livelihood, has continued to exist on a *de facto* basis and has continued to provide for the needs of the residents in many ways. just as it did for their distant ancestors. In addition, the Plateau still harbors an extraordinary number of plant and animal species, many of them rare, in a mountain landscape of primitive beauty. The remarkable survival of these frontier elements into the twenty-first century makes this one of the more distinctive regions of our nation, and one with a strong and enduring sense of place.

Most importantly, many of the residents of the region see themselves as conveyors of the 250-year-old traditions and culture of the frontier. Attendees at public meetings consistently embraced the theme of the frontier as an authentic expression of their family and community heritage. Many of the primary interpretive sites of the corridor are now protected only because the residents worked persistently to keep intact portions of the original forest commons which sustained their forebears and which they regarded as necessary for the continued viability of their culture. Thus, the unifying core concept for the corridor has been identified as "The Old Southwest Frontier." This concept is supported by four cultural and historical themes that examine the Plateau's frontier legacy from four different perspectives.

SUMMARY OF THEMES

Core Concept:

The Old Southwest Frontier

Cultural/Historical Themes:

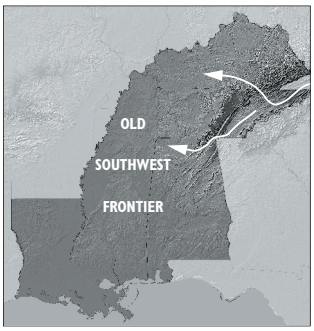
1. Survival in an Untamed Land
2. Contrasting Worlds
3. A New Arcadia
4. Preservation of the Commons

CORE CONCEPT: THE OLD SOUTHWEST FRONTIER

The corridor's frontier identity involves elements of both of the human and the natural frontier, each of which offers a rich assortment of interpretive opportunities.

The Human Frontier

The story of the Old Southwest frontier is an important chapter of the nation's history. A radical transformation of the landscape began in the last quarter of the eighteenth century when the great wilderness then known as the "Southwest Territory" began to open up. A wave of settlers migrated from the Tidewater colonies into the lands that would become the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. For these settlers, the last southwestern extremity of the Southern Appalachian chain was the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee, a wall of rock 1,000 feet high lying directly across their path. The Plateau's forbidding geology presented a major barrier, yet two possible routes past it did exist: the Cumberland Gap and the Tennessee River Gorge.



ABOVE: Primary migration routes past the Cumberland Plateau into the Old Southwest Frontier.

FACING PAGE: Sycamore Falls on Fiery Gizzard Creek, part of the South Cumberland State Recreation Area.

Between 1775 and 1800, it is estimated that more than three hundred thousand settlers passed through the Cumberland Gap, making it one of the most significant migration sites in the nation's history. The Gap was also a symbolic gateway, as this was the point where migrants passed beyond reach of the coast and the physical connection with their European homelands. The Tennessee River Gorge provided the only waterborne route around the Plateau, but many settlers fell prey to its notorious rapids and hostile Indian attacks. Eventually a third route, the Avery Trace, later improved and named the Walton Road, was constructed across the Plateau; but this wagon road was also dangerous as it passed through Cherokee lands where an attack was always a possibility.

Most of the westward travelers who passed through this gauntlet ignored the rugged lands of the Cumberland Plateau itself and continued on to the lowlands of central Kentucky and Tennessee, and later into the Deep South. Much of the land they would claim there was extremely fertile, and within a single generation much of the southwestern wilderness was transformed into profitable farmland. The Plateau, still known simply as "the Wilderness" through the first half of the nineteenth century, was the last area in Tennessee to be settled, as its rugged terrain and poor soils made it largely unsuitable for agriculture. Yet small numbers of settlers did choose to carve out homestead farms in the isolated coves of the Plateau, and the reasons why they did so, often reflecting the cultural traditions of their Scottish and Irish homelands, is an interesting part of the region's story. As fertile soils were available only in narrow floodplains along streams, these farms were limited to relatively small patches and did not expand outward onto the Plateau, leaving large tracts of the forested frontier commons intact and unchanged.

Throughout the nineteenth century, land speculators and resource companies bought up large tracts of the Plateau's forest lands, anticipating future resource extraction or settlement enterprises. The lands were cheap and property taxes low, enabling these outside interests to hold their land investments in reserve, essentially leaving them as a *de facto* continuance of the frontier commons under the benign neglect of absentee owners. The homesteaders were able to augment their livelihood by exploiting this forest resource in many ingenious ways. The well-established pattern of long-term family ownership of small holdings and active use of the larger commons produced a genealogical landscape and a strong cultural connection to the land. This distinctive pattern of land ownership and use has not changed significantly up to the present time.

Though the United States Census Bureau declared the American frontier officially closed in 1890, the Plateau remained even then as

an island from another era, projecting deep into the highly developed lowlands of the South. The forbidding line of escarpments along its edges formed an exceptionally sharp interface between the two worlds of the wild Plateau and the intensely cultivated lowlands. Thus the Plateau with its adjoining lowlands became a microcosm of the entire frontier settlement saga of the Old Southwest. The contrast between these two very different landscapes can be readily experienced today, just as it has been for many generations, simply by looking down from any number of the Plateau's craggy promontories at the farmlands and towns below. This rare situation makes the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee a uniquely well-suited region for interpreting the abiding influence of the frontier on American history and the American character.

The Natural Frontier

The frontier setting in which the Cumberland Plateau's story has unfolded is a distinctive natural landscape. Its geological resources and its extraordinary richness of plant and animal life have played a central role in shaping the history and culture of the region. Therefore, an appreciation of events and behavior in the human realm requires interpreting the natural realm with which the people of the Plateau were inextricably linked. In contrast with the rest of the Old Southwest, the Plateau is a place where the connection between wild nature and human culture was never broken.

The visual aspect of the frontier is nowhere more evident than in the geology of the Cumberland Plateau. The Plateau is a massive wall of rock 30 to 50 miles wide rising sharply above the surrounding lowlands. Its outer edges form overhanging escarpments, in many places jutting far out to form sheltered "rockhouses" beneath. These well-defined boundaries have always given the region a recognizable identity and a tangible sense of place. The interior is a level tableland into which rivers and streams have carved deep, narrow gorges hemmed in by cliffs. The Plateau's distinctive geology, which contrasts sharply with most other mountains in the eastern United States, expresses itself in hundreds of spectacular formations. Over 150 waterfalls, many of great height, drop over the overhanging sandstone into deep bowls. Erosion of the sandstone caprock has created one of the highest concentrations of natural bridges in the nation.

The base of the Plateau is honeycombed with one of the largest collections of caves in the United States. Native Americans and frontier settlers devised ingenious ways to put all these features to good use. Today the Plateau's geology still eloquently conveys the primeval mystery and wonder of the frontier wilderness. Beneath one of its rockhouses or cave entrances, the visitor stands in the footsteps of ancient Woodland Indians, Long Hunters, and early pioneer settlers, all of whom took shelter in these places which have not changed in thousands of years.

In terms of animal, fish, insect and plant life, the Southern Appalachian region is considered to be one of the most important places on earth**.** It contains one of the world's largest expanses of temperate hardwood forest and is often cited as globally important for the extraordinary diversity of species which it nurtures. The region is considered the global center of evolution for salamanders, frogs, crayfish, mussels and millipedes. Its riverine communities constitute the most species-rich temperate freshwater ecosystem in the world. The Plateau is home to 158 species which are globally ranked as extremely or very rare, and 55 species which are federally listed, making it a national hotspot for rare and endangered species. This extremely high level of biodiversity has caused the Cumberland Plateau to be characterized as a "biological island."

The Plateau has retained its primary biodiversity because it possesses a great variety of natural habitats which have not been significantly impaired by human activity. Though the majority of the Plateau's timber was harvested between 1880 and 1930, most of these woods are now in second growth and are considered "primary forests," with their original soil structure and natural succession still intact. Many areas have not been logged again and are gradually returning to their original, primeval state. The larger forest tracts support many animals which require wilderness conditions, such as elk, black bear, and nationally important nesting populations of cerulean warblers and other neotropical songbirds. The region has the highest diversity of cave species in the United States, many found nowhere else in the world, and the discovery of new species occurs regularly. The corridor also contains 1,200 miles of rivers and streams which have been classified in the National Park Service's National Rivers Inventory as having one or more "outstandingly remarkable" natural or cultural values judged to be of more than local or regional significance.

Interpretive Resources for the Frontier Core Concept

Migration Routes:

The era of Post-Colonial westward migration established patterns of transportation, settlement and land ownership in the Old Southwest frontier which are still evident in the Cumberland Plateau corridor. The region possesses many excellent sites for interpreting this important chapter in the national story:

Cumberland Gap National Historic Park and Cumberland Gap Historic District (NRHP), Claiborne County. The National Park Service is currently restoring the Cumberland Gap to its pioneer-era condition.

Fort Southwest Point (NRHP), Roane County.

McMinnville-Chattanooga Stagecoach Road (NRHP), Grundy County. An early wagon road which is protected within the Savage Gulf State Natural Area.

Paint Rock Creek Covered Bridge (NRHP), Scott County.

Sparta Rock House (NRHP), White County. A pioneer-era toll house.

Tennessee River Gorge, Hamilton and Marion Counties.

Walton Road/Avery Trace, Roane, Morgan, Cumberland, and Putnam Counties. An intact section of this early wagon road will

soon open as an interpretive trail, and planning is underway to restore the entire route across the Plateau.

The Frontier Landscape:

Approximately 700 miles of State Scenic Parkways, along with numerous other rural backroads and an extensive network of State Bike Routes, provide many opportunities for driving tours of the Plateau's landscape and interpretation of its settlement patterns.

Geological and Biological Resources:

Many of the geological, and biological resources which best convey the Cumberland Plateau's identity as a remnant of the wilderness frontier are protected and interpreted in a total of 594,000 acres of public lands, which include:

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.
Obed National Wild and Scenic River.
15 State Parks.
14 State Natural Areas.
8 State Forests.
23 State Wildlife Management Areas or Refuges.
4 State Scenic Rivers.
Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park. 280-mile trail (partially complete, under construction) which provides opportunities for extended skyline hikes in a wild setting and ties together a string of parks and natural areas.
Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area, Campbell County. Contains the Cumberland Plateau elk herd, one of only three in the eastern United States.

Old-Growth Forests:

Four nationally significant cove forests in the corridor have never been logged:
Piney Falls State Natural Area and National Natural Landmark, Rhea County.
Savage Gulf State Natural Area and National Natural Landmark, Grundy County.
Shakerag Hollow, University of the South Domain, Franklin County.
Thumping Dick Cove National Natural Landmark, University of the South Domain, Franklin County.

Opportunities to experience tracts of old second-growth forest are available at several locations:

Franklin State Forest, Franklin and Marion Counties.
Grundy State Forest, Grundy County.
Bledsoe State Forest, Bledsoe, Cumberland and Van Buren Counties.
Cumberland Mountain State Park, Cumberland County.
Fall Creek Falls State Park, Van Buren County.
Colditz Cove State Natural Area, Fentress County.
South Cumberland State Recreation Area, Grundy County.
Chuck Swan Wildlife Management Area, Campbell County.
Norris Watershed City Park, Anderson County.

Waterfalls:

Public lands in the corridor contain 40 waterfalls of 40 feet or higher. The tallest of these are:

Fall Creek Falls, 256 feet, Van Buren County. Highest waterfall in the eastern US.
Coon Creek Falls, 250 feet, Van Buren County.
Burgess Falls, 130 feet, Putnam County.
Rockhouse Falls, 125 feet, Van Buren County.
Ozone Falls, 110 feet, Cumberland County.
Falling Water Falls, 110 feet, Hamilton County.
Virgin Falls, 100 feet, White County.
Piney Creek Falls, 95 feet, Van Buren County.
Julia Falls, 95 feet, Hamilton County.
Sheep Falls, 90 feet, White County.

One of the Plateau's most impressive natural rock formations, the Twin Arches in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area span 92 feet and rise to a height of 70 feet.

Natural Arches:

Public lands in the corridor contain 76 natural arches. The largest of these are:

Twin Arches, 92 feet wide x 70 feet high, Scott County. One of the largest arches in the nation.
Tunnel Trail Arches, 350 feet wide, Pickett County.
Russell Arch, 100 feet wide x 30 feet tall, Scott County.
Christian Tunnel, 100 feet wide, Fentress County.
Hwy 154 Natural Bridge, 86 feet wide x 24 feet tall, Pickett County.
Lookout Mountain Natural Bridge, 85 feet wide x 14 feet tall, Hamilton County.
Betty Branch Arch, 70 feet wide x 20 feet tall, Scott County.
Medley Arch, 30 feet wide x 90 feet tall, Van Buren County.
Bluff Trail Arch, 60 feet wide x 60 feet tall, Hamilton County.
Greenwood Cliff Arch, 50 feet wide x 60 feet tall, Pickett County.
Barnett's Rib, 60 feet wide x 50 feet tall, Morgan County.
Hegler Arches, 50 feet wide x 50 feet tall, Morgan County.

Caves:

The region contains 35 of the longest and 23 of the deepest caves in the country, and the Rumbling Falls Cave system with the largest cave room east of the Mississippi River. The following caves are open to the public:

Big Bone Cave State Natural Area and National Natural Landmark (NRHP), Van Buren County.
Cudjo Caverns, Claiborne County. Contains one of the largest stalagmites in the world.
Cumberland Caverns National Natural Landmark, Warren County. One of the largest caves and one of the largest cave rooms in the eastern United States.
Lookout Mountain Caverns and Cavern Castle Historic District (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Lost Cove Cave State Natural Area, Franklin County.
Nickajack Cave, Marion County. Largest cave entrance in the eastern United States, and a very large bat population.
Raccoon Mountain Cave, Hamilton County.
Russell Cave National Monument. Located on adjacent lands in Alabama, containing evidence of human habitation dating back 7,000 years.

COMPARISON WITH THE NPS THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

The core concept of the Cumberland Plateau Heritage Corridor is articulated through four cultural and historical themes, each of which presents a different perspective on the ways that the existence of a frontier remnant influenced human activities and attitudes. The "Revised Thematic Framework" developed by the National Park Service "to help identify cultural resources that embody America's past and to describe and analyze the multiple layers of history encapsulated within each resource" has been a valuable tool in the process of defining these cultural and historical themes for the Cumberland Plateau. The themes selected for the region correspond with NPS framework themes as follows:

CPNHC Cultural/Historical Themes	NPS Framework Themes
1. Survival in an Untamed Land	**I. Peopling Places** 1. Family and the life cycle 2. Health, nutrition, and disease 3. Migration from outside and within 4. Community and neighborhood **III. Expressing Cultural Values** 6. Popular and traditional culture **VII. Transforming the Environment** 1. Manipulating the environment and its resources
2. Contrasting Worlds Native Americans Steamboats and Iron Horses The Growth of Towns The Civil War Timber, Iron and Coal The Scopes Trial TVA Oak Ridge/The Manhattan Project	**I. Peopling Places** 5. Ethnic homelands (Cherokee and Chickamauga) 6. Encounters, conflicts, and colonization **V. Developing the American Economy** 1. Extraction and production 3. Transportation and communication 4. Workers and work culture 5. Labor organizations and protests **VII. Transforming the Environment** 1. Manipulating the environment and its resources 2. Adverse consequences and stresses on the environment **VI. Expanding Science and Technology** 1. Experimentation and invention (Oak Ridge)
3. A New Arcadia Mountain Retreats and Spas The University of the South European Settlement Schemes Rugby Norris and TVA Cumberland Homesteads Highlander Folk School	**II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements** 2. Reform movements **III. Expressing Cultural Values** 1. Educational and intellectual currents 3. Literature 5. Architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design
4. Preservation of the Commons Early Land Speculation Schemes The New Deal Local Conservation Efforts Chattanooga Corporate Conservation	**II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements** 4. Recreational activities **VII. Transforming the Environment** 2. Adverse consequences and stresses on the environment 3. Protecting and preserving the environment

THEME 1: SURVIVAL IN AN UNTAMED LAND

"…to the frontier the American intellect owes its striking characteristics. That coarseness and strength combined with acuteness and inquisitiveness; that practical, inventive turn of mind, quick to find expedients; that masterful grasp of material things, lacking in the artistic but powerful to effect great ends; that restless, nervous energy; that dominant individualism, working for good and for evil, and withal that buoyancy and exuberance which comes with freedom – these are traits of the frontier, or traits called out elsewhere because of the existence of the frontier."

Frederick Jackson Turner, *The Significance of the Frontier in American History,* 1893

Long Hunter reenactor at the Museum of Appalachia's annual Tennessee Fall Homecoming festival.

The story of the frontier settlers of the Cumberland Plateau is the story of the molding of the American character. Resourcefulness, often cited as an essential trait of our nation, was vital for survival in the wilderness, where everything that was needed had to be found in the environment or crafted by hand. The idea of "living off the land" still holds fascination for Americans, yet very few today can even imagine the wide array of skills required. In most parts of the country, the backwoods lore needed to survive in the wilds was quickly forgotten as wilderness became cultivated land and settlers became farmers or townspeople. Within a single generation the pioneer spirit evolved from a life-and-death necessity to an icon of a mythicized past. Yet the long-term persistence of the physical elements of frontier on the Cumberland Plateau meant that traditional survival skills, many originating among Native Americans and dating back thousands of years, continued to be practiced there by the descendents of European settlers; and a rich tapestry of cultural folkways, by which the original settlers adapted to life on the frontier, was handed down over many generations. The Cumberland Plateau is a place where wilderness skills are still a relevant part of life, and one where the great story of human survival on the frontier of the Old Southwest can be readily conveyed.

Architecture, Implements, and Handcrafts

The frontier subsistence economy which developed throughout the Southern Appalachians has been noted for its ingenuity in making use of whatever was at hand in the natural environment. Nowhere is this ingenuity more evident than in the vernacular architectural traditions of the frontier. The log cabin, believed to have originated in Scandinavia and passed on to Scotch-Irish immigrants in Pennsylvania, met the need to construct shelter quickly and efficiently in a wilderness setting, where available labor

was minimal. A common practice was to build a barn first, since caring for livestock and storing corn was an immediate priority, and to live in it while constructing the house. The designs of both barns and houses tended to be modular, based on multiples of a single "pen" or "crib," allowing the tenants to build one or two cribs first and add more as the need arose. Using this basic template, the Cumberland Plateau settlers developed a double-pen form which became known as the "Cumberland House." Construction of these barns and cabins required a knowledge of the inherent properties of the various tree species found in the area as well as skill in dressing and fitting logs and notching corners. These early forms continued to be used in the region long after they had been replaced in other parts of the South, with elements derived from the nineteenth century still being built as late as the 1930s.

The Appalachian pioneers learned to use the many varieties of trees to make virtually anything that was needed. The American chestnut was a dominant species on the Plateau until the catastrophic blight of the 1930s. Its rot resistant wood was excellent for cabin foundations and floors, split rail fences, and many other applications. The settlers had a wide range of other species to choose from, each with its own special properties and uses. Hickory provided sturdy tool handles and wagon wheels. Walnut came to be prized for gun stocks as well as musical instruments. Light, straight-grained yellow poplar made excellent beams for cabins and barns; and, as water-powered sawmills were built, it became the wood of choice for milling. Of course wood was also the primary source of fuel for heat and cooking.

In the enduring frontier environment of the Plateau, where most implements and household items had to be made by hand rather than purchased, a rich legacy of craft skills evolved. These included blacksmithing, wood carving, basketmaking, cloth spinning, water-powered grist and timber milling, sorghum cane grinding, and a host of other folk skills and crafts. The unique collection of the Museum of Appalachia, containing a quarter of a million hand-made implements and artifacts from Southern Appalachia, is the world's most comprehensive collection of Southern Appalachian handcrafts. Annual events there present demonstrations of many frontier skills.

Hunting and Gunpowder

The settlers' survival depended on a keen understanding of the resources and annual cycles of the forest. Hunting was probably the most important of these survival traditions. The earliest explorers of the region, known as "Long Hunters" because of the extended duration of their treks in search of furs, depended on game for food as well as cash. For the settlers, the Long Hunter tradition continued to provide their primary source of protein. No early mountaineer's gear was complete without a "Kentucky Rifle," the remarkably accurate piece which the German settlers of Pennsylvania adapted from their native Jaeger rifles and manufactured in great numbers as the weapon of choice for westward migrants.

The necessity of harvesting game in a remote region where balls and powder were hard to obtain fostered a tradition of marksmanship that was carried forward into the twentieth century. *The New Deal Guide to Tennessee* noted, "A unique sport, drawing enthusiastic crowds of participants and spectators, is the 'turkey shoots' of the mountain people, stemming from the rifle contest of pioneer times. Scorning modern breech loaders, the contestants use long-barreled cap and ball 'hog' rifles, patterned after the famous guns of the frontiersmen." This tradition was reflected in the exploits of Sgt. Alvin York. As a youth, York's success at turkey shoots made him well known locally for his marksmanship. During his service in the First World War, he used his ability as a sharpshooter to good effect, capturing almost single-handedly 132 Germans, including a machine gun nest, armed only

LEFT: Ginseng plants and roots gathered by a local forager.

RIGHT: An antique whiskey still preserved at the Museum of Appalachia.

with a rifle and revolver. Though he became the war's most decorated hero and a national celebrity, he spurned fame and returned to his home town at the foot of the Plateau, where he established a school for local children.

The settlers discovered that the droppings of the huge bat populations in the Plateau's caves contained calcium nitrate. This could be refined to yield saltpeter, the critical ingredient for making gunpowder. Until the coming of railroads in the late nineteenth century, powder for rifles was difficult to acquire, and the ability to manufacture it locally was a critical element of the hunting culture. This local industry, based entirely on the Plateau traditions of living off the land, became immensely important to the nation during the War of 1812. Later, Tennessee was the major producer of gunpowder for the Confederacy. Big Bone Cave alone is believed to have produced 25% or more of the Confederacy's gunpowder. The cave's location was a closely guarded secret which was long sought but never discovered by Union soldiers.

Foraging

Unusually high diversity of botanical species made the Cumberland Plateau highly productive for foraging. As early settlers arrived in the mountains and in many cases married Cherokee women, they acquired the Native Americans' knowledge of the local plant life. Benita Howell's survey of the folkways of the Big South Fork region documents 86 edible species growing in the area. Every fall the Plateau's hardwood forest produced a bountiful harvest of chestnuts, beechnuts, walnuts and hickory nuts. Many kinds of wild greens and berries were gathered for the table, and sassafras and bee balm provided teas. Beekeeping was practiced widely and provided the primary sweetener. The settlers learned how to track wild bees to their hives and used smoke to lure them into portable hives to be carried back to the homestead. They had to depend on knowledge of the bees' habits rather than protective clothing to avoid being stung.

Howell's survey lists 66 species of medicinal plants which were used by the residents. The widespread use of these plants to treat a variety of ailments, even into the twentieth century, reflects healthcare traditions dating to the time when doctors were rare in the area and Plateau settlers often had no other recourse but to find plants which could give some relief. Foraging for wild ginseng and goldenseal, both valuable plants which are difficult to cultivate, is still a widespread practice in the Southern Appalachians. Tennessee is the nation's second largest producer of wild ginseng, and most of the plant's habitat exists in the coves of the Cumberland Plateau.

The streams and rivers of the Cumberland Plateau also provided a ready supply of mussels. Native Americans used mussels for thousands of years for food and decoration; and shell middens can be found at various locations in the river bottoms. The settlers are not known to have eaten mussels, but they did develop a cottage industry making mother-of-pearl buttons from mussel shells.

Open-Range Grazing

One of the most important ways that residents used the resources of the natural environment was open-range grazing of livestock in the forest commons, generally hogs, cattle, and turkeys. This practice was a direct continuation of the open range traditions of northern England and Scotland. A whole body of specialized lore was developed to keep track of animals in the forest and to take advantage of the special geological features of the Plateau. Cane brakes, which grew thick in the fertile soils of the river bottoms, provided especially good grazing, and the vertical cliffs at the heads of coves served to keep livestock from wandering off. Caves, rockhouses, and even stone arches were used to make livestock holding pens. Winter burning of the forest underbrush, a continuance of a Cherokee practice, kept the woods open for grazing animals and stimulated a greater springtime growth of browse. In the fall, the animals were fattened on the hardwood forest's mast harvest.

Huge livestock drives were organized, precursors of the cattle drives of the Texas, where many Appalachian people later migrated. Herds of hogs and turkeys were driven as far as Charleston and Cincinnati, and people living along the routes organized holding pens and provisioning to support the drovers. The practice of open-range grazing continued until the 1950s, when the last Plateau counties, yielding to the demands of the railroads, finally passed fence laws. The loss of this practice placed a severe hardship on the many families who still depended on it.

Whiskey Making

The Scottish and Irish immigrants who settled in the Cumberland Plateau brought with them a highly developed knowledge of the distilling process, as well as a deep resentment of the King's tax collectors. In the wilds of the Plateau, they found many well-concealed locations to make corn whiskey and escape detection by government revenue agents. Several caves in the corridor contain remnants of stills. Until Prohibition, whiskey making was a high art, and much tradition and pride went into it. In addition to being consumed for pleasure, the product served the mountain folk as medicine for many ailments and gave them an important means of sterilization. One former Tennessee moonshiner is quoted as saying, "..a lot of people…wouldn't be alive today if the midwife hadn't washed her hands in white whiskey." The distilling practice has largely died out since the 1970's, but there are still an undocumented number of living Plateau residents who have the skills to make high quality whiskey.

Navigation

All of these activities in the forest required highly developed navigational skills. In the level tableland of the Plateau and the thick forests of the coves, there are often no visible landmarks to aid in orientation. The settlers of the Plateau had to find their way through an exhaustive knowledge of faint game trails and old Indian trails, along with a keen sense of direction. Searching for grazing wildlife or wild game often meant leaving the trails and going cross-country. With surface water scarce atop the Plateau, knowing the locations of even the smallest springs could be critical. A hunter caught out in a bad storm needed to be able to find the nearest cave or rockhouse. In an era before maps, the settlers named and memorized thousands of such features of the landscape, and their names convey both the uses to which they were put (Sheep Cave, Dairyhouse Cave, Lime Kiln Cave) and the danger and difficulty of the terrain (No Business Creek, Devil Step Hollow, Black Drowning Creek.) As this backwoods lore was handed down from generation to generation, it became an integral part of the genealogical landscape. Detailed knowledge of the land, so essential to the pioneers, is still necessary for today's Plateau residents, who are active hunters, foragers, and woods ramblers, and some of whom use their inherited talents as park rangers and guides.

Family and Church

In the isolation of the frontier, social bonding and mutual support were critical to survival. Two bedrock institutions – family and church – became conveyors of deep traditions of community bonding in the Plateau settlements. Loyalty to kinfolk is reflected in the region's settlement patterns, in which members of a single family would often live up and down a single hollow, sometimes a few miles apart yet very much connected in spirit, helping out as needed on communal projects and gathering together for family celebrations. Ties to the land thus became genealogical as well as economic: a particular hollow or community was seen as the place where one's ancestors had lived and were buried, the forest commons as the family's traditional hunting and grazing grounds. Strong intergenerational family ties helped-helped insure that traditions and family lore have been passed down orally from generation to generation.

The frontier proved to be fertile soil for the Protestant traditions that the Scotch-Irish settlers brought with them to the Appalachian mountains. The independence of the mountain people made them suspicious of organized sects that insisted on strict dogma. The Methodist practice of using trained circuit riders to conduct services over a wide territory was well-suited for organizing the decentralized settlements of the frontier, and thus the Methodist Church became established fairly early in the region. Other old-time churches were of various Baptist sects (Separate, Primitive or Old Regular, and United) which did not have trained clergy. One of the locals would be "called" by the congregation to serve as the preacher without pay. These churches were often small structures that served a highly localized population. Religious occasions such as baptisms, all-day church singings, revivals, and funerals were important events for reinforcing community bonds.

Today the Methodist Church is still the dominant religious denomination in the Plateau communities, with numerous Baptist churches there as well. Many of the region's churches were first established during the earliest settlement period and are repositories of very old traditions. Though many of the smaller backwoods churches have disappeared, the regional culture still values faith and religion as central elements of life.

TOP: Island Home Baptist Church near Norris.

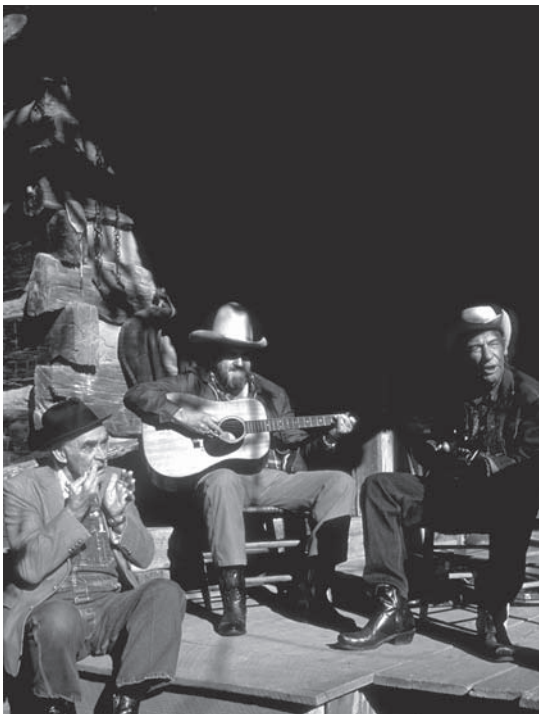
BOTTOM: New Hope Church of Christ in Cumberland County.

FACING PAGE: Old-time musicians at a Museum of Appalachia Festival.

Music and Storytelling

Bob Fulcher, noted musicologist and head ranger for the Cumberland Trail State Park, maintains that one of the distinctive characteristics of Appalachian people is the degree to which music is an integral part of their language. Playing instruments and singing are universal throughout the culture. Many of the traditional songs performed in the region have been passed down orally from frontier days, often derived from much older English and Irish sources. The music performed by the Cumberland Plateau pioneers has been documented in recent decades through studies of living conveyors of the tradition, and this research has revealed a musical heritage as rich as any part of Appalachia. Fulcher also notes that, "Some of America's best-known folk songs…celebrate our Cumberland Trail landscape…Family music – homemade music – still carries this history between generations." Some of the heritage music conveyors that Fulcher has discovered in his field research have been quite distinguished musicians, such as the Hicks family, who had an unparalleled repertoire of Anglo-American folksongs and ballads, and Clyde Davenport, the last living master of an unaccompanied solo fiddling tradition which derives from pre-Civil War days. The secular traditions were accompanied by an equally rich body of sacred music, which continues to be sung regularly in many parts of the Plateau.

The Bluegrass pioneer Lester Flatt was a product of the local culture of old-time music, which he grew up hearing and playing as a boy in Sparta, on the Highland Rim at the foot of the Plateau. This part of the state had once had many farms with small slave holdings, and



the descendents of those slaves, along with others who had come with the building of the railroads, constituted a small but culturally significant African-American population. As a result, Sparta was, during the boyhood of Lester Flatt, a musical melting pot where the ballads and string music of the Anglo-Irish traditions were influenced by the syncopation and strong rhythms of African-American styles. A similar cross-pollenization took place in other parts of the Plateau as well. This mixture of traditions produced the nationally important musical genre which we know as Bluegrass, first popularized in the 1940s by the recordings of Lester Flatt and of Bill Monroe.

Whereas festivals, fairs, and even mainstream entertainment media have tended to sustain the local music traditions of the Plateau, the situation has been different with oral storytelling traditions. As Benita Howell stated, "Until recent popular revival of storytelling and emergence of professional storytellers, some highly entertaining genres like riddles and Jack Tales were seldom heard around the Big South Fork. On the other hand, folk belief, haint tales, family anecdotes, and legends (developed from family anecdotes in many cases) continued to flourish because their content had social or psychological relevance and local meaning that transcended mere entertainment." Howells notes that "Ghost lore, labeled 'haint tales' in Big South Fork parlance, is one genre of traditional lore that has maintained its vitality." Lynnwood Montell's *Ghosts along the Cumberland* cites a rich array of such lore. In addition, many common-currency anecdotes and legends have been documented. Like the culture as a whole, these are directly connected to local places and events. These legends range from the "factual," based on actual characters or events, to the "fantastic." The region's rich oral traditions continue to be passed down through the telling, retelling, and constant embellishment of such tales.

Heritage Preservation Initiatives for this Theme

The long history of religious conviction and participation is an extremely important component of the Plateau's cultural heritage. The evangelical denominations, which predominate in the region, have recently embraced a new concept termed "Creation Care," which attaches scripture-based moral responsibility to stewardship of the natural environment. This emerging religious theme can help the region engage the powerful force of its churches in supporting natural resource conservation efforts. It will therefore be an important goal of the Cumberland Plateau Heritage Corridor to build bridges to churches, to seek better understanding of the intersections between religious beliefs and deep cultural beliefs about nature, and to support congregations in developing ways to put Creation Care into practice in their lives.

In addition, continued viability of the traditions of pioneer cove farms and long-term family ownership of land represent the best defense for the Plateau's unspoiled landscape. The Cumberland Plateau Heritage Corridor will seek to support local farmers and landowners by promoting heritage-based, income-enhancing programs, such as sustainable hardwood products and agri-tourism.

TOP: Outbuilding at the Officer Farmstead Historic District.

BOTTOM: Arnwine Cabin (NRHP) on exhibit fully furnished with frontier-era domestic items at the Museum of Appalachia.

Interpretive Resources for this Theme

Frontier Homesteads:

Historic homesteads or pioneer-era structures are preserved in the following locations:

Alvin Cullom York Farm Historic District National Historic Landmark (NRHP), Fentress County.

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Scott, Morgan, and Fentress Counties. Excellent examples of preserved pioneer-era homesteads.

Forbus Historic District (NRHP), Fentress County.

Freels Cabin (NRHP), Anderson County.

Museum of Appalachia, Anderson County. The nation's preeminent collection of Appalachian pioneer buildings, with 38 original log buildings in a recreated frontier farm setting, including the Arnwine Cabin (NRHP) and the Mark Twain family cabin.

Officer Farmstead Historic District (NRHP), Overton County.

Valley View Farm Historic District (NRHP), Roane County.

Many surviving examples of old cove farms that are still under cultivation exist in the corridor. A total of 101 family farms have been identified as "Century Farms" which have been worked by one family for 100 years or more. The Kemmer farm in Grassy Cove, a National Natural Landmark, and the Pyle farm in Pall Mall are examples of land that has remained long-term in the same family.

Pioneer Practices and Folkways:

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Scott, Morgan, and Fentress Counties. Folklife interpretive rangers and programs are available.

Eight State Parks. Folklife interpretive rangers and programs are available.

Falls Mill and Falls Mills Historic District (NRHP), Franklin County. One of the largest overshot waterwheels (32') still operating in America.

Joe L. Evins Center for Appalachian Crafts, Dekalb County. Contemporary approaches to the region's crafts traditions.

Ketner's Mill and Bridge Historic District (NRHP), Marion County.

Museum of Appalachia, Anderson County. An exhaustive collection of 250,000 handmade implements and artifacts.

Norris Dam State Park, Anderson County. Contains the Lenoir Museum Cultural Complex and a working 1790s grist mill.

Saltpeter Works:

A total of 33 saltpeter caves, many still containing vats and implements used in mining, have been identified in the corridor. Those open to the public include:

Big Bone Cave (NRHP), Van Buren County.

Cumberland Caverns National Natural Landmark, Warren County.

Folklife Festivals and Craft Artists:

This study has identified a total of 166 actively practicing craft artists within the Cumberland Plateau corridor. In addition,45 festivals celebrating local culture, history, crafts, and foodways have been identified, including:

Antique Tractor Show, Rhea County.

Battles of Chattanooga Anniversary, Hamilton County.

Bledsoe County Agricultural Fair, Bledsoe County.

Christmas in Old Appalachia, Anderson County.

Cookeville to Nashville Excursion Train, Putnam County.

Cookin' On the Square, Putnam County.

Cordell Hull Folk Festival, Pickett County.

Cultural & Heritage Festival, Fentress County.

Cultural Heritage Day, Scott County.

Cumberland County Fair, Cumberland County.

Dayton Strawberry Festival, Rhea County.

TOP: National Cornbread Festival, South Pittsburg.

BOTTOM: Lester Flatt boyhod home in Sparta.

Fall Color Cruise & Folk Festival, Hamilton County.
Fall Harvest Festival, Bledsoe County.
Fentress County Agricultural Fair, Fentress County.
Festival of British & Appalachian Culture, Morgan County.
Frozen Head Wildflower Pilgrimage, Morgan County.
Grundy County Fair, Grundy County.
July 4th Blackberry Festival, Warren County.
July 4th Celebration and Anvil Shoot, Anderson County.
Ketner's Mill Country Arts Fair, Marion County.
Middle Tennessee Antique Engine & Tractor Show, Putnam County.
Mountaineer Folk Festival, Van Buren County.
Muddy Pond Molasses Stir-Off, Putnam County.
National Cornbread Festival, Marion County.
Norris Dam State Park Spring Heritage Festival & Car & Truck Show, Anderson County.
Old-Fashioned Fall Fest, Campbell County.
Overton County Fair, Overton County.
Pioneer Day on the Mountain, Cumberland County.
Pioneer Encampment, Scott County.
Pioneer Festival, Hamilton County.
Putnam County Agricultural & Industrial Fair, Putnam County.
Rugby Pilgrimage, Morgan County.
Rugby Rumble, Morgan County.
Sandhill Crane Viewing & Cherokee Indian Heritage Days, Hamilton County.
Scopes Festival, Rhea County.
Scott County Fair, Scott County.
Scott County Sorghum Festival, Scott County.
Secret City Festival, Anderson County.
Standing Stone Celebration, Putnam County.
Standing Stone Rolley Hole Marble Festival, Overton County. A rare continuation of a traditional sport of the region, played with hand-made flint marbles.
Taste of the Mountain Food Fair, Franklin County.
Tennessee Central Railroad Rendezvous Springfest, Putnam County.
Tennessee Fall Homecoming, Anderson County.
Tennessee Strawberry Festival, Rhea County.
White County Fair, White County.

Old-Time Music and Storytelling:

A total of 47 traditional venues for authentic old-time folk, bluegrass, and gospel music have been identified in the Cumberland Plateau corridor, including:

Altamont City Park Jam, Grundy County.
Annual Gospel Singing, Pickett County.
Audubon Acres Annual Fiddle Fest and Bob Douglas Memorial, Hamilton County.
Bledsoe County Agricultural Fair, Bledsoe County.
Bluegrass & Craft Festival, Fentress County.
Bluegrass at the Sparta Amphitheater, White County.
Boxcar Pinion Memorial Bluegrass Festival, Hamilton County.
Chattanooga Dulcimer Group, Hamilton County.
Chattanooga Traditional Dance Society, Hamilton County.
Clayton's Pickin' Barn Performance Night, Marion County.
Dayton Hardee's Gospel Sing-Along, Rhea County.
Dunlap Coke Ovens Festival, Sequatchie County.
Edmon's Family Farm Bluegrass Festivals, Bledsoe County.
Fall Creek Falls Mountaineer Folk Festival, Van Buren County.
Festival of British and Appalachian Culture, Morgan County.
Foothills Craft and Music Festival, Morgan County.
Folk Jam at Audubon Acres, Hamilton County.
Fredonia Mountain Jamboree, Sequatchie County.
Golden Mountain Spring Bluegrass Festival, White County.

Graysville Jam Session, Hamilton County.
Hardee's Gospel Sing, Hamilton County.
Jamestown Jamboree, Fentress County.
Masonic Lodge Bluegrass Festival, Fentress County.
Mountain Opry, Hamilton County.
Nine Mile Volunteer Fire Department Bluegrass Festivals, Bledsoe County.
Old Timers Day Bluegrass Festival, Fentress County.
Overton County Bluegrass Festival, Overton County.
Red Bank Acoustic Music Club Jam Session, Hamilton County.
Riverbend Music Festival, Hamilton County.
Riverwalk Park Friends of Folk Music Event, Hamilton County.
Rocky Fork Jamboree, Morgan County.
Rocky River Bluegrass Festival, Van Buren County.
Shade Tree Pickin', Franklin County.
Sierra Hull Bluegrass Festival, Pickett County.
Snow Hill Bluegrass Jamboree, Hamilton County.
South Pittsburg Mountain Old Time Fiddle Jam, Marion County.
Spencer Bluegrass Festival, Van Buren County.
Texas Ruby Apple Harvest Festival, Rhea County.
Tracy City Pickin' Barn, Grundy County.
Tri-State Bluegrass Festival, Marion County.

The Tennessee Arts Commission currently lists seven folklorist/storytellers in the Cumberland Plateau corridor, and an inventory conducted by Historic Rugby lists an additional three. No doubt there are many more traditional storytellers waiting to be discovered.

Churches:

Many active churches were first organized in the early nineteenth century, and though their buildings may have been rebuilt in modern times, their cultural traditions often remain intact. Historic nineteenth century church structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places include:

Algood Methodist Church (NRHP), 1875, Putnam County.
Big Spring Union Church (NRHP), 1750, Claiborne County.
Christ Episcopal Church and Parish House (NRHP), 1875, Marion County.
Crain Hill School and Church, (NRHP), 1850, Van Buren County.
First Methodist Church (NRHP), 1875, Warren County.
First Presbyterian Church (NRHP), 1850, Warren County.
McKendree Methodist Episcopal Church (NRHP), 1850, Marion County.
Philadelphia Church of Christ (NRHP), 1825, Warren County.
Pikeville Chapel AME Zion Church (NRHP), 1850, Bledsoe County.
Powell Valley Male Academy (NRHP), 1825, Claiborne County.
Primitive Baptist Church of Sweeten's Cove (NRHP), 1850, Marion County.
Trinity Episcopal Church (NRHP), 1850, Franklin County.

Many active congregations in the corridor which were first organized in the nineteenth century are repositories of deep cultural traditions. Those identified at this point include:

Bethel Hill Baptist, established 1886, Warren County.
Clark Chapel Church, established 1800, White County.
Concord Baptist, established 1885, Warren County.
Cumberland Presbyterian Church, organized 1891, Marion County.
Dry Valley Cumberland Presbyterian, founded 1858, Putnam County.
Earlyville Church of Christ, organized 1893, Warren County.
First Baptist Church, established 1888, Marion County.

First United Methodist Church, established 1881, Marion County.

Free Communion Baptist Church, organized 1889, Anderson County.

Grassy Cove Methodist, established 1803, Cumberland County.

Haston's Chapel Church of God, founded 1870, Van Buren County.

Haven Chapel United Methodist Church, organized 1892, Anderson County.

Hickory Valley Baptist Church, organized 1840, White County.

Highland Church of Christ, established 1845, Warren County.

Island Ford Missionary Baptist Church, established 1892, Anderson County.

Jasper First Baptist Church, established 1883, Marion County.

Johnson Baptist Church, established 1835, Putnam County.

Lonewood Baptist Church of Christ, established 1843, Van Buren County.

Martin Chapel Methodist, established 1846, Warren County.

McDonald Chapel Methodist Church, organized 1840, Overton County.

Moores Gap United Methodist Church, organized 1834, Anderson County.

Mountain Assembly Church of God, organized 1888, Anderson County.

Mt. Pisgah Methodist Church, established 1815, White County.

New Home Baptist Church, founded 1898, Putnam County.

Plainview Church of Christ, established 1811, White County.

Pleasant Grove Methodist Church, established 1815, Putnam County.

Primitive Baptist Church, built1886, Marion County

Robinson Chapel Presbyteriand Church, established 1888, White County

Salem Church of Christ, established 1837, Warren County

Sand Springs Baptist Church, established 1875, Putnam County

Shipley United Methodist Church, established 1885, Putnam County

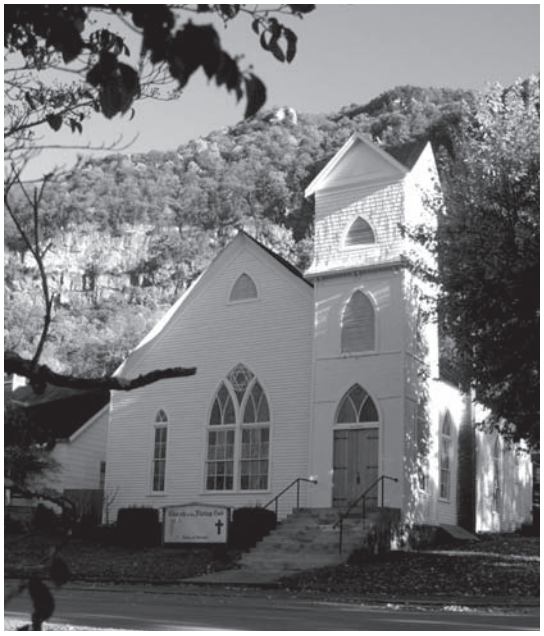
St Paul Lutheran Church, organized 1846, Morgan County

Taylor's Chapel Methodis, established 1873, Cumberland County

Tracy City First Baptist Church, founded 1892, Grundy County

Upper Room Ministries Church, organized 1882, White County

Winesap Freewill Baptist, established 1853, Cumberland County.



LEFT: Freewill Missionary Babtist Church of Harriman.

RIGHT: Church of the Living God, Cumberland Gap.

Native American heritage celebration at Cumberland Gap National Historic Park.

THEME 2: CONTRASTING WORLDS

The persistence of a physical frontier and a frontier culture has set the Cumberland Plateau apart from the surrounding regions throughout its history and made it a place where contrasting cultures and economies have interacted, often in conflict with each other. The pattern of contrast and conflict pitted values and attitudes rooted in pioneer traditions against the overwhelming momentum of great tides of American history.

Native Americans

The first of these conflicts was the tragic saga of Native American displacement, in which the Plateau became the setting for two of the grimmest episodes.

The gorge of the Tennessee River, at the southern end of the Plateau, had a history of Native American culture dating back an estimated 14,000 years. As early as 1540 Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto encountered Creek Indian villages at the head of the gorge, near the site of present day Chattanooga.

By the arrival of colonial fur traders in the eighteenth century, the Cherokee had established a large domain which included the gorge and the Plateau. In 1816 a trading post called Ross's Landing was set up at the head of the gorge to take advantage of the river and trails which converged there, establishing very early the area's identity as a transportation hub. The tablelands of the Plateau lay on the periphery of the Cherokee centers of culture in the fertile river bottoms. The Cherokee used the Plateau much as the settlers would later, for hunting, foraging, and harvesting nuts, often making camp in the sheltered rockhouses. Like the settlers, they practiced burning to improve game habitat. Their wanderings through the mountain wilderness followed a network of prehistoric game trails, many of which became today's highway routes.

In 1775, land speculator James Henderson persuaded the Cherokee chiefs to sign a treaty selling most of their lands in Kentucky and central Tennessee to his Transylvania Company. Though the treaty was in violation of the Proclamation of 1763, which reserved the lands beyond the Appalachians as Indian territory, a great wave of settlers were pressing to claim the fertile Cherokee lands west of the Cumberland Plateau, and no authority strong enough to enforce the King's proclamation existed on the frontier.

Dragging Canoe, the son of one of the chiefs, adamantly refused to accept the terms of the treaty, stating with prophetic foresight that "…finally the whole country, which the Cherokees and their fathers have so long occupied, will be demanded…" He and a band of followers withdrew from the main body of the Cherokee in protest. The treaty had left the Plateau in Cherokee hands, as it was not considered of value, and it was there that Dragging Canoe eventually set up his base. A confederacy was formed of rebellious Indians from several tribes, joined by Scotch-Irish allies, which they called Chickamauga, meaning "River of Death." From five well-defended towns deep in the gorge of the Tennessee River, Dragging Canoe and his followers waged a guerrilla war of resistance for the next 19 years, launching surprise attacks on frontier settlements over a wide area. They did indeed turn the Tennessee into a river of death, slaughtering many parties of settlers attempting to reach the west by flatboat through the gorge. Finally, led by a man whom the Chickamaugas had taken hostage as a boy, an army troop made its way by an unguarded route into the gorge, caught the band by surprise, and destroyed their five towns.

No dependable record exists of the fate of the Chickamauga survivors. An obvious means of escape would have been to melt away into the wilds atop the Plateau. A number of Plateau residents claim to be descendents of Chickamaugas, conveying family stories of how their ancestors escaped detection in remote corners of the Plateau. Yet the fate of the Chickamauga survivors remains a mystery. Officially they became a vanished tribe, and their possible connection to living descendents has not yet been adequately researched. Frontier settlers often took Native American women as wives, and such marriages are generally assumed to explain why many Plateau families today claim Native American ancestry.

The Plateau also witnessed the final chapter in the Cherokee tragedy. In 1838, the Federal government authorized the removal of all the Cherokee to the territory of Oklahoma. A total of 14,000 were escorted west by army contingents, some going down the Tennessee in flatboats, others following two overland trails across the Plateau. Many died of cold, malnutrition, and disease on what became known as the "Trail of Tears." The chaos left approximately 1,700 individuals unaccounted for and presumed escaped in military records of the removal. One of the mysteries of this story is the fate of the Cherokee who disappeared during the removal. Again, the Plateau, still an unsettled wilderness that was well known to them, would have offered a last opportunity to slip away undetected, yet this possibility has yet to be researched.

Steamboats and Iron Horses

As a remnant of the frontier in an era of rapid development of the American economy, the Plateau was fated to experience increasing interactions with massive changes taking place all around it. The first wave of change came to the region in the early decades of the nineteenth century, when towns began to emerge in the agricultural lands at the base of the Plateau. Water transportation played an important role in the early development of these lowland towns. The earliest craft were flatboats and keelboats. Franklin County, which became a major cotton producer, transported its harvest to market aboard flatboats drifting down the Elk, Tennessee, Ohio, and

Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans, with the boatmen making their way back again on foot via the Natchez Trace.

By the 1830s steamboats were working the Tennessee. Chattanooga became an important port at the head of the Tennessee River gorge, the only link between the upper east Tennessee towns and the Mississippi. Many dreams of a steamboat empire upstream of the gorge were dashed on the gorge's notorious rapids. Steamboats and flatboats had to be laboriously warped upstream, and the loss of a vessel to the rapids was not uncommon. The upper Cumberland River, more forgiving by far, soon had an active steamboat fleet sailing far up to the north end of the Plateau. This fleet remained active well into the 1920s, generating a wealth of stories about riverboat life and lore.

ABOVE: The Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum, the South's largest historic railroad museum, interprets Chattanooga's rich rail heritage.

FACING PAGE TOP: A log truck pulls down the main street of Harriman. The influence of timbering is still aparent in the corridor's towns.

BOTTOM: This old store in Tracy City still delivers dry goods to local customers.

The two pioneer migration routes through the Cumberland Gap and Chattanooga became primary transportation nodes for the development of the region when railroad tunnels were constructed under the mountains. The Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad was the first to cross the Plateau. It did so via the 2,200-foot Cumberland Mountain Tunnel, one of the longest in the nation at the time, built between 1850 and 1853, mostly with slave labor. A tunnel through the Cumberland Gap was not completed until 1888.

The Growth of Towns

Despite the relative remoteness of the region's coves and forests, it should not be assumed that the region's residents lived in isolation from one another or from the outside world. Lines of communication evolved in response to changing circumstances. In the earliest days, the primary means of communication was through travels up and down a cove, where members of extended families were often dispersed in a linear pattern. Intervening mountains and cliffs made communication with adjoining coves far more difficult. Over time a network of paths evolved, many of them recycled from game trails and Native-American trails. Every small locale with access to water power developed its own mill, and these became early communication crossroads. New information about outside affairs flowed back into the mountains from autumn livestock drives, spring log runs, and periodic visits by itinerant ministers. Traditions of neighbors gathering at a local crossroads dry goods store were laid down very early and still continue in places such as the Forbus Store in Pall Mall.

In the first half of the nineteenth century, towns began to grow up beside the lowland rivers and along two wagon roads over the Plateau: the Walton Road and the Chattanooga-McMinnville Stage Road. Others sprang up along the mainline rail tracks and along spur lines that branched off. These towns began primarily as trade and supply centers for farmers, providing grist mills, cotton gins, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, tanners, and other trades. Trips to town evolved as a central aspect of the communication system for the region's backwoods residents. Whittling and chatting under a shade tree in front of the county courthouse became a time-honored social tradition.

In these early days, small operators began to work deposits of coal close to the surface to fire the forges of blacksmiths and the boilers of steamboats, and others built early forges to process the region's iron deposits. With the expansion of rail lines after the Civil War, northern investment in coal and timber flowed into the region, and many of these towns became centers for exploiting the natural resources of the adjoining Plateau.

Throughout the nineteenth century, the Plateau's backcountry settlers primarily continued their self-provisioning practices. The new developments in transportation in the valleys gave them access to markets for raw materials and livestock, and they used this trade to supplement their incomes. The leather tanning business, for example, made the Plateau

timber valuable for its bark. While these small farmers were by no means prosperous, up until the Civil War the Plateau was a stable, self-sufficient region of close-knit, thriving communities.

The complex interactions between these isolated frontier-era settlements and the steadily growing lowland towns and cities was exemplified by the small-scale timbering practices of the mountain folk. As demand for wood grew, timbering became an increasingly important source of outside income for the mountain residents. Long before there were railroads to carry timber to market, mountain people who had access to larger rivers devised a complex system for moving great amounts of wood by log rafting. They felled trees during the winter and hauled the logs to the nearest streambank with mules or oxen. When the spring rains brought a flood tide, they rolled the logs into the water, caught them with a chain across the river, and bound them into large rafts, which they rode downstream, often through dangerously swollen rapids, and on to the nearest city. This was not a simple business, and an elaborate body of log rafting skills was developed to gather and keep the timber together and navigate downstream. Some enterprising souls avoided most of the work by focusing on capturing runaway logs in the rivers and rafting them to market. Log runs were still taking place on the Wolf and Obey, the Obed and Emory, and the Big South Fork as late as the 1930s, just about the time when the first recreational canoeists began to venture onto those same rapids.

The extreme contrasts between the backwoods world of the Plateau and the rapidly changing world beyond are most dramatically expressed in the life of Cordell Hull. Born in a log cabin near the base of the Plateau in 1871, Hull began his career as a log rafter. He made his first trip downstream to Nashville on such a raft. According to one anecdote, he looked up at the State Capitol from his vantage point on the river and said, "That's a nice place. I'd like to work there." Hull eventually became a Congressman and later a Senator, then was appointed Secretary of State under FDR. He is often credited as the father of the United Nations, a role for which he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Civil War

The Civil War opened a deep split within the Plateau communities for the first time. Some counties of the Plateau were eager to support the Confederacy, especially those with significant agricultural economies. Franklin County, a major cotton producer, grew so impatient with Tennessee's indecision over secession that it seceded and declared itself part of Alabama. In many other areas of the Plateau, the frontier economy of the settlers was not dependent on slavery, and many families were unsympathetic to the Rebel cause. After Tennessee voted to join the Confederacy, Scott County declared a pro-Union position and seceded from the state. This pattern played itself out disastrously at the local level, with best friends parting ways to join opposing sides and neighbors fighting neighbors. While great battles raged in the lowlands of Tennessee, a vicious guerilla war ravaged the Plateau, with many barn-burnings and murders on both sides. The legacy of this fighting would leave the Plateau's economy and communities in ruins.

The career of Champ Ferguson is indicative of the extreme partisan divisions of this period. Notorious as a guerilla fighter in the Upper Cumberland area, and one of only two Confederates to be executed for war crimes, Ferguson was seen either as a heroic freedom fighter or a bloodthirsty murderer, depending on one's sympathies. Even today, two historical markers about Ferguson paint very different pictures of the man:

> "**Cap't Champ Ferguson, Confederate Guerilla.** Cap't. Ferguson and his co-fighters were the only protection of the people of the Cumberland and Hickory Valley area had against Federal guerillas dur-

ABOVE: The grave of the notorious Champ Ferguson in White County.

BELOW: A cannon emplacement on Lookout Mountain in Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park.

ing the Civil War. Ferguson was hanged by the Federals in Nashville." (Historic Marker, White County, Tennessee)

"**Civil War Terrorist.** Champ Ferguson born here in 1821. Guerilla leader with Confederate leaning, but attacked supporters of both sides thruout Civil War in southern Ky., Tenn. Over 100 murders ascribed to Ferguson alone. Hunted by both CSA and USA. Taken after the war, convicted by US Army Court, Nashville, and hanged Oct. 20, 1865." (Historic Marker, Albany, Kentucky)

Controlling the Plateau's two historic transportation nodes, the Cumberland Gap and the Chattanooga area, became strategic objectives for both armies during the war. Cumberland Gap, the key gateway of Daniel Boone's Wilderness Road through the mountains, would have seemed a likely location for a major battle. Both sides controlled the Gap at different times during the war and fortified it heavily enough to withstand major attacks. However, the ruggedness of the surrounding terrain and the lack of good roads made the Gap vulnerable to being encircled and besieged. For the Confederates, this problem was compounded by the pro-Union sympathies of the surrounding inhabitants. Recognizing this vulnerability, the Confederate garrison simply abandoned the Gap without a fight in June of 1862. Later that year, as Union forces holding the fortress were running out of food and becoming encircled by advancing Confederates, they also escaped into the hills without resisting. The pattern was repeated a third and final time late in the summer of 1863, when the Confederates holding the Gap, again running out of food, surrendered without a shot. Ironically, General Ulysses S. Grant, on a visit to the Gap in 1864, characterized it as "the Gibraltar of America" and stated, "with two brigades of the Army of the Cumberland I could hold that pass against the army which Napoleon led to Moscow." In the aftermath of the war, Lincoln Memorial University was chartered near

Cumberland Gap to fulfill the wishes of the deceased president to create a university in the region to reward the mountaineers who had remained faithful to the Union cause.

In contrast to the Cumberland Gap story, Chattanooga witnessed some of the war's most important engagements, the outcome of which marked a decisive turning point. Though Chattanooga at the time was only a small town, its position relative to the river gorge and the surrounding mountains placed it in command of three of the South's vital rail arteries: Atlanta to Nashville, Memphis to Charleston, and Knoxville to Virginia. In the autumn of 1863, the area became the site of some of the war's hardest fighting and most complex maneuvers as both sides struggled over the Plateau's rugged terrain for control of the "Gateway to the Deep South." The bloodiest two-day battle of the entire war, the Battle of Chickamauga, brought an important moral victory to the Confederates in the wake of the devastating losses at Gettysburg and Vicksburg. Union forces under General William Rosecrans were pushed out of North Georgia and took refuge in Chattanooga. Confederate troops lined up along the heights of Lookout Mountain, Orchard Knob, and Missionary Ridge and besieged the town for three months. The Union forces were able to hold out solely by keeping open supply lines over impossibly rugged Plateau trails.

Eventually, Washington sent reinforcements under Generals Ulysses S. Grant and "Fighting Joe" Hooker. The Battles for Chattanooga came to a climax on November 23 and 24 of 1863, when General Grant ordered Hooker to stage a diversionary attack on Lookout Mountain to allow General Sherman's troops to attack Missionary Ridge. In an unexpected victory, Hooker's men took Lookout Mountain in the famous Battle above the Clouds. The decisive victory came for the Union when Bragg's Confederate troops were forced to retreat from Missionary Ridge and were pushed back into Georgia in a stunning victory by General Thomas's Army of the Cumberland. The Union now had access to the Deep South through Chattanooga, clearing the way for Sherman's devastating march to Atlanta and on to the sea. Twenty-five years after the end of the war, in 1890, President Benjamin Harrison designated the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park as the first and largest national military park in the nation.

Timber, Iron and Coal

After Reconstruction, Northern industrial investments on the Plateau increased dramatically, with a primary focus on extraction of timber and coal. This part of the region's story reflects the experience of much of Southern Appalachia, with one important difference. The Plateau was not as rich in natural resources as many other areas and therefore suffered less intensive development, making it better able to retain its essential frontier character. Yet this era presented many severe challenges to both the culture and the resources of the region.

The coming of rail lines in the 1880s made large-scale timber harvesting feasible, and the Big Cut began, with trees of legendary size hauled out of the coves. Timber camps sprang up in remote areas. Many of the mountain folk, who were already skilled in timber harvesting, learned for the first time the harsh realities of company towns and industrial employment.

At the time, concepts of environmental impact and sustainability were nonexistent. The Plateau's virgin hardwoods were a valuable resource, and the frontier was viewed as a place to make money as rapidly as possible. For a while, fortunes were indeed made, though not by those who lived there. The loss of the forest resource was gradual, taking place over a period of 50 years; and the scale of the de-

struction was not fully apparent until the last. By the onset of the Depression much of the Plateau was a wasteland of giant tree stumps and eroding soil. Downstream, the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers experienced a series of disastrous floods caused by rapid runoff from the bare mountainsides. The "tragedy of the commons" had left its mark on the region, and the nation was horrified.

Coal and iron deposits made the Plateau an early center for iron production. Iron furnaces were established in the valley towns of McMinnville, LaFollette, Dayton, and Dunlap. The town of South Pittsburg was founded as a company town and so named in anticipation of major iron production in the area. The iron industry created an increasing demand for coke, a purified form of coal used to melt iron in blast furnaces. Numerous coke ovens burned day and night at Coalmont, Dunlap, Victoria, Tracy City, and Glenmary. By 1885 Chattanooga was regarded as the iron-making center of the South, with nine furnaces, seventeen foundries and machine shops; but that turned out to be the peak of iron production in the area. The focus of the industry eventually moved to Birmingham, and the Plateau's coke ovens closed between 1895 and 1915.

Coal mining had an especially dramatic effect on many mountain families between 1870 and 1930. It brought many of them out of the woods and hollows and into company towns and mines. The history of coal mining on the Plateau became fraught with conflict and disasters, arousing controversy and sympathy on a national scale.

Welsh miners who immigrated to work the mines brought with them a tradition of labor organizing, and several contentious strikes took place as the miners sought better pay and working conditions. These disputes culminated in what became essentially a civil war. In 1871 the State of Tennessee, desperately in need of cash, began leasing convicts to the coal companies. This arrangement put the free miners at a distinct disadvantage, as it gave the companies access to lower cost labor and a pool of workers who could not strike. After numerous strikes and petitions failed to end the practice, the miners mounted an armed resistance in 1891, which proved for a time very successful despite repeated attempts to enforce the leases by military force. In six separate incidents miners stormed stockades housing prisoners, overwhelmed military guards, and sent the convicts away on trains, in once case simply releasing them into the woods. These conflicts attracted the notice of the national press, which soon dubbed them the "Coal Wars." The last shots were fired in a fierce battle in 1892 at the stockade at Coal Creek, which by then had become a military fort stoutly armed with cannons and Gatling guns. The miners lost this final battle, yet they won the war: two years later the State discontinued the convict lease system, and other southern states soon followed suit.

BELOW: Coke ovens at Grundy Lakes State Historic Area.

FACING PAGE: The Rhea County Courthouse in Dayton, a National Historical Landmark. The Scopes Trial is reenacted here annually in the original courtroom.

Ten years after the end of the Coal Wars, the Plateau experienced the one of America's worst mine disasters, the Fraterville explosion, which killed 216 men and boys, leaving only three men left alive in the town. In 1911, another explosion occurred at the Cross Mountain Mine No. 1 near Briceville, taking the lives of 84 miners. Though this mine was a closed shop, union miners who had fought the company in the Coal Wars came to help with the rescue. The stories of these disasters are filled with poignant details of the feverish rescue attempts, the miraculous survival of some, and the last letters left behind by those who perished.

The mountain folk who worked these mines continued to supplement their incomes, especially during strikes, by continuing their pioneer traditions of living off the land. It was particularly telling that, during the fierce strike of 1932-33 at the Wilder-Davidson coal complex, the coal company erected no trespassing signs on its forest lands to put increased pressure on the miners to come back to work.

The Scopes Trial

In 1925, one of the nation's most celebrated conflicts, this one entirely verbal, took place in Dayton, a railroad town at the eastern base of the Plateau. Tennessee had passed a law forbidding the teaching of evolution, and there was an expectation that a landmark test case would soon arise to challenge it. The Dayton city fathers decided that having such a trial in their town would put them in the national spotlight, and they persuaded John T. Scopes, a local teacher, to allow himself to be indicted under the new law in order to create the test case. These civic promoters were successful beyond their wildest dreams. For ten days the Rhea County courthouse became the center of the nation's rapt attention, as William Jennings Bryan and Clarence Darrow, two of the most celebrated orators of the day, argued creationism versus Darwin's theory of evolution. The town's population quickly swelled, and over 120 reporters arrived from all across the country. The streets took on a circus atmosphere. As the case became dubbed the "Monkey Trial," a few attendees actually brought monkeys with them. Writing songs about the debate became a cottage industry.

The story's ending was something of an anticlimax: Scopes was found guilty and fined $100, but the conviction was later thrown out on a technicality. Bryan, totally exhausted after one of the greatest performances of his distinguished career, died five days after winning the verdict. Ultimately however, the Dayton city fathers succeeded in their promotion scheme, as even to this day discussions about the teaching of evolution often refer to the landmark trial that took place in their town.

Tennessee Valley Authority

In 1933, when the Tennessee Valley Authority first arrived in the Clinch River valley just off the eastern edge of the Plateau, the immediate objective was to build Norris

Dam, which would be the new agency's first impoundment project. Yet there was another, more ambitious mission that reached far beyond the engineering challenges of generating electricity and averting floods. President Franklin Roosevelt is believed to have personally proposed a more expansive role, which he alluded to as follows, "Before I came to Washington I had decided that for many reasons the Tennessee Valley…would provide an ideal land use experiment on a regional scale." Thus, one of the New Deal's most ambitious projects arrived in the Cumberland Plateau region armed with massive funding, legal mandates, and a mission to transform the lives of the local residents. It was probably the most dramatic collision between a frontier culture and the forces of modernity ever to occur in American history.

According to a TVA survey of the Clinch Basin property owners at the start of the project, 94% lacked electricity, 70% did not own a car or truck, and 65% had to travel at least 300 yards to get their household water. Many were living on lands their families had handed down since the earliest pioneer days. When TVA agents began to appear at farmhouse doors up and down the Clinch River informing residents that Uncle Sam was going to buy them out, the concept of "selling" land could not have been more alien. Eventually over 3,000 families were moved to make way for the new reservoir. In the context of the area's deep family ties, one of the most painful aspects of the relocation was the unearthing and reburial of deceased ancestors. Thus began a lasting legacy of resentment toward land condemnation which is still actively expressed by landowners in the region today.

John Rice Irwin, founder of the Museum of Appalachia and a descendent of one of the families displaced by the Norris Dam was five years old when TVA came to the Norris basin. In a 1976 interview, he recalled the local culture and attitudes of the time:

"They really had a great emotional attachment to that area...Almost everyone else was related in some way or another to everyone else. Most of the people were descendents of ancestors who came to that area…So they felt they really had a great reticence to leave the area, but again they felt…that it was something that would be of benefit to people generally, and the felt they were doing it for their country, sort of. And I recall many, many times hearing them say that they hated too leave more than anything in the world, but they felt it was a worthwhile project... And they especially felt this later on, I believe, when they saw what TVA had accomplished."

"The biggest concern that I can remember that the people had was in regard to some newspaper articles that came out, apparently in newspapers across the country. I'm not sure about that, but I do remember seeing…a full-page pictorial...of the people in that area. Well, they showed the Henry Stooksbury family with the old ladies out in front of the big log cabin with their bonnets, washing their clothes. And people up there felt that they were being portrayed as if they were isolated,

THIS PAGE: Construction of Norris Dam, TVA's first reservoir project.

FACING PAGE TOP: Wash day at the Henry Stooksbury farm in the Clinch River Basin in the early 1930s. This image, often misused to suggest the backwardness of Appalachian people, actually depicts a relatively well-off family during the time before rural electrification.

BOTTOM: TVA surveys of Clinch River Basin residents before the building of Norris Dam found that 65% had to walk at least 300 yards to get household water.

ignorant mountain people. And I don't know what part TVA played, whether the pictures were from TVA, or whether it happened at the same time; but that was the one big criticism that I recall more than anything else, I think."

TVA's great experiment still stands as a landmark in America's evolving relationship with Big Government. It can be debated whether the goal of improving the socio-economic conditions of many of the displaced mountain folk was actually achieved. Certainly the agency left a valuable legacy in the area of land use and resource conservation. Above all, it is clear that, for most of the backwoods residents of the Plateau, all the hoopla ultimately came down to one thing: electricity. As wires snaked back into the hollows, a new standard of living came with them. Many tedious manual practices, like washing clothes by hand, were soon discarded. Caves and spring houses no longer had to be used to preserve food. Thus passed the era of total frontier self-sufficiency for many families. Yet the fact that electricity and modern conveniences did not eradicate many of the Plateau's pioneer folkways and traditions speaks of how deeply rooted the people were in family heritage and attachment to the land.

Oak Ridge and the Manhattan Project

The last great wave of change to affect the Plateau region involved weapons production during World War II. The Plateau's saltpeter caves had formerly been a significant source of gunpowder during the War of 1812 and the Civil War. This time, the weapon was the new bomb developed by the Manhattan Project. Defense Department planners chose as the site for this work a relatively isolated valley at the eastern base of the Plateau. Secrecy was absolutely critical, and the planners felt that this location would escape notice. Plentiful amounts of the necessary electricity would be available from the nearby TVA generators at Norris Dam. The project director also stated later that he had believed the women in that part of the country would be less inclined to ask nosey questions. As the "Secret City" of Oak Ridge quickly grew into the fifth largest city in Tennessee, with the largest building under one roof in the world, great pains were taken to conceal its existence. It was not shown on maps, and few people knew it was there at all. Of its thousands of employees, only a handful of managers knew the nature of the work they were doing. At a recent reunion, one former employee said, "I just thank God every day that Tennessee is still on the map, because my hand was on the switch."

Heritage Preservation Initiative for this Theme

The avenues and degrees of interaction between industrial development and the residents of the Plateau has not been adequately researched. Certainly the backwoods residents were affected by these changes and capitalized on them as opportunities arose, yet they managed to maintain their traditional ways of life while the world around them was undergoing rapid transformation. Similarly, major changes in corporate land ownership on the Cumberland Plateau are anticipated in the next decade, and these land transfers have the

TOP: A section of the Trail of Tears, still intact 175 years after the Cherokee relocation.

BOTTOM: The Cowan Depot Railroad Museum.

potential to radically transform the landscape and culture of the region.

It will therefore be an urgent goal of the Cumberland Plateau Heritage Corridor to better understand the factors and mechanisms by which residents of the Plateau retained their cultural identity and traditions in the past despite sweeping changes. For example, how have the region's close ties to the land persisted despite the changes wrought by large-scale timbering, coal mining, improved transportation, modern conveniences, and exposure to many different cultures? How have these cultural ties evolved in response to such outside forces? Such an understanding may provide keys to helping the residents protect their important natural and cultural heritage values in the future.

Interpretive Resources for this Theme

Native Americans:

Audubon Acres Site (NRHP), Hamilton County.

Brainerd Mission Cemetery (NRHP), Hamilton County.

Hampton Place Archeological Site (NRHP), Hamilton County.

Mallards Dozen Archeological Site (NRHP), Hamilton County.

Moccasin Bend Archaeological District National Historic Landmark (NRHP), Hamilton County.

Native American heritage festivals. Held annually at Monterey, Crossville, and Tracy City.

Tennessee River Gorge, Hamilton and Marion Counties. Numerous archaeological sites of Paleo, Woodland, Mound Builder, and Cherokee Indians.

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Sections of Bell's Route and the Northern Route are intact and under development as interpretive foot or motor trails.

Railroads:

Chattanooga Union Station (NRHP), Hamilton County.

Chattanooga, Harrison, Georgetown & Charleston Railroad Tunnel (NRHP), Hamilton County.

Cookeville Railroad Depot (NRHP), Putnam County.

Cowan Depot (NRHP), Franklin County.

Cumberland Mountain Tunnel (NRHP), Franklin County. One of the few surviving antebellum railroad tunnels in America, still in use as the main rail link between Nashville and Chattanooga.

Southern Appalachia Railway Museum, Anderson County. Includes excursion trains with original locomotives and rolling stock from the region.

Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum, Hamilton County. One of the largest operating historic railroads in the United States, including a 1911 steam locomotive.

Growth of Towns:

Bank of Winchester Building (NRHP), Franklin County.

Cordell Hull Birthplace State Historic Area (NRHP), Pickett County.

Cumberland County Courthouses (NRHP), Cumberland County.

Dr. James A. Ross House (NRHP), Bledsoe County.

Falconhurst (NRHP), Warren County.

Falls Mills Historic District (NRHP), Franklin County.

First National Bank of South Pittsburg (NRHP), Marion County.

Franklin County Jail (NRHP), Franklin County.

Great Falls Cotton Mill (NRHP), Warren County.

Great Falls Hydroelectric Station Historic District (NRHP), White County.

Jellico Commercial Historic District (NRHP), Campbell County.

Ketner's Mill and Bridge Historic District (NRHP), Marion County.

Kingston Avenue Historic District (NRHP), Roane County.

Oakham (NRHP), Warren County.

Old Fentress County Jail (NRHP), Fentress County.

Overton County Courthouse (NRHP), Overton County.

Rhea County Courthouse National Historic Landmark (NRHP), Rhea County.

South Main Street Historic District (NRHP), Bledsoe County.

Sparta Residential Historic District (NRHP), White County.

Civil War:

The Plateau's Civil War resources will be interpreted in partnership with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA). The TCWNHA has not completed a final management plan, and their interpretive priorities may be still evolving. However, an overall interpretive priority is described in this section from a draft management plan:

> "In the Compact between the State of Tennessee and the U. S. Department of Interior, the boundaries of the TCWNHA are defined as encompassing every Tennessee county because the Civil War era touched every county, whether through occupation, military activities, infrastructure, guerilla warfare, emancipation/Reconstruction, and commemoration. Every Tennessee county has cultural resources associated with the war and Reconstruction years.
>
> "However, to understand how this southern state became a major stage for the war and Reconstruction, and played a national role in the story of America's Civil War and Reconstruction years, focus must be placed on the combined factors of people, time, and the state's strategic location as the gateway to the Deep South. Once that emphasis is made, it is clear that a handful of historic transportation routes associated with Tennessee's Civil War and Reconstruction story—and routes that have the greatest concentration of significant cultural resources—define the major cultural landscapes of the TCWNHA. These primary heritage area routes, which relate to the interplay of war, transportation, and infrastructure, are focused on four primary urban areas: Chattanooga, Nashville, Memphis, and Knoxville. These four major centers connect themselves and large portions of the rest of the state by means of historic turnpikes, railroads, and river routes, creating a web of cultural landscapes that today are largely paralleled by two-lane to four-lane highways.
>
> "These landscapes, in turn, define the primary routes through which visitors may explore the TCWNHA. By traveling along these heritage routes, visitors can encounter all of the primary museums, historic sites, parks, and recreation centers that are associated with the Civil War and Reconstruction story of Tennessee. Due to their primacy in telling the story, and the importance of preserving the historic properties along these routes, the heritage area routes are the top priority for future program and project development of the TCWNHA."

According to this description, most of the Plateau's resources would be a lower priority for the TCWNHA, as the primary heritage routes identified above cross only four of the 21 counties of the Cumberland Plateau corridor. Likewise, the TCWNHA currently identifies interpretive resources for the Civil War and Reconstruction in only five counties of the Cumberland Plateau region. These sites are as follows:

Battle for Chattanooga Museum, Hamilton County.

Beersheeba Springs Historic District, Grundy County.

Chattanooga National Cemetery (NRHP), Hamilton County.

Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park and Historic District (NRHP), Hamilton County.

Cravens House, Lookout Mountain, Hamilton County.

Cumberland Gap National Historic District (NRHP), Claiborne County.

Fiery Gizzard State Natural Area, Grundy County.

Grundy County Courthouse Square, Grundy County.

Kelly's Ferry Landing, Marion County.

Lincoln Memorial University, Claiborne County.
Missionary Ridge Railroad Tunnel Reservation, Hamilton County.
Old Roane County Courthouse, Roane County.
Peter Turney Birthplace site, Marion County.
Reflection Riding (Nature Center) , Hamilton County.
Ross's Landing, Hamilton County.
Silverdale Confederate Cemetery, Hamilton County.
Stewart Monument, Hamilton County Courthouse, Hamilton County.
Tyner Redoubt Park, Hamilton County.
Wauhatchie Pike Hiking Trail, Hamilton County.
Wheat African-American Cemetery, Roane County.
Wiley Memorial Methodist Church, Hamilton County.

An additional partner in interpreting this period will be the Borderlands Project, which is developing a visitor center and heritage interpretation sites in Pickett and Overton Counties.

Iron and Coal:

Coalmont Coke Ovens (NRHP), Grundy County.
Cross Mountain Miners' Circle (NRHP nomination in progress), Anderson County.
Douglas Coal and Coke Company Clubhouse (NRHP), Sequatchie County.
Dunlap Coke Ovens (NRHP), Sequatchie County.
East Tennessee Iron Manufacturing Company Blast Furnace (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Fraterville Miners' Circle (NRHP), Anderson County.
Glenmary Coke Ovens (NRHP nomination in progress), Scott County.
Grundy Lakes Historic District (NRHP), Grundy County.
Lake City Coal Creek Miners Museum and Coal Trail, Anderson County.
Tracy City Coke Ovens (NRHP), Grundy County.
South Pittsburg Historic District (NRHP), Marion County.
Lodge Manufacturing Company, Marion County. Run by the same family since 1896, the only foundry in America still making traditional cast iron cookware; public tours.

Scopes Trial:

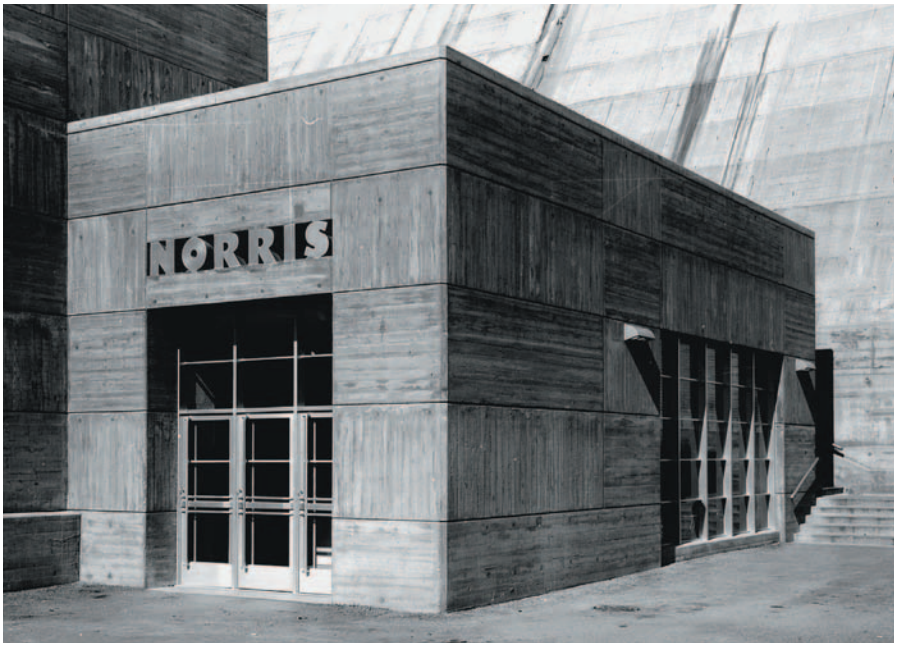
Bailey House Bed & Breakfast, Rhea County. Home of John Scopes.
Bryan College, Rhea County. Scopes Trial tours and programs.
Dr. Walter Thomison House (NRHP), Rhea County.
Rhea County Courthouse National Historic Landmark (NRHP), Rhea County. Site of the trial, which includes a museum covering the event. A reenactment of the trial, based on court transcripts, is presented each summer in the original courtroom.

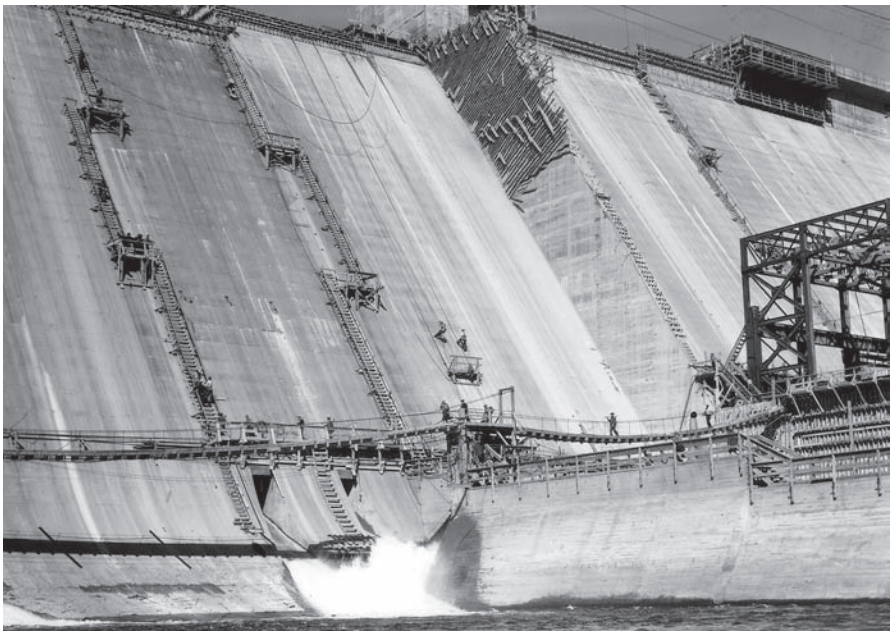
Tennessee Valley Authority & Norris Dam:

Norris Historic District (NRHP), Anderson County.
Norris Dam State Park, Anderson County.
Norris Watershed City Park, Anderson County.

Oak Ridge/Manhattan Project:

American Museum of Science and Energy, Anderson County.
Bear Creek Road Checking Station (NRHP), Anderson County.
Bethel Valley Road Checking Station (NRHP), Anderson County.
Manhattan Project National Historical Park, Anderson County, under development.
Oak Ridge Historic District (NRHP), Anderson County.
Oak Ridge Turnpike Checking Station (NRHP), Anderson County.
X-10 Reactor, Oak Ridge National Laboratory National Historic Landmark (NRHP), Anderson County.





TOP: The powerhouse at Norris Dam, showing the strongly Modernist philosophy of TVA's early architects.

MIDDLE: A resident of the Clinch River Basin, early 1930s.

BOTTOM: Construction of Norris Dam.

TOP: One of the oldest summer houses at Beersheba Springs.

MIDDLE: A cottage in the Monteagle Assembly.

BOTTOM: The Hughes Library at Historic Rugby.

THEME 3: A NEW ARCADIA

Beginning in the mid-nineteenth century, the Cumberland Plateau began to attract notice beyond its borders not only as a source of natural resources but also as a remnant of the unspoiled frontier wilderness. The concept of "wilderness" had undergone a radical transformation from a dangerous, uncivilized and possibly evil place to a source of spiritual connection with God's creation. The Victorian mind had also become fascinated with concepts of Arcadia, a primitive mountain region in Greece where shepherds were imagined to live an idealized life of pastoral simplicity. The popularity of Arcadian mythology derived from the Romantic reaction against the Industrial Revolution and the sense of a lost connection to the natural world.

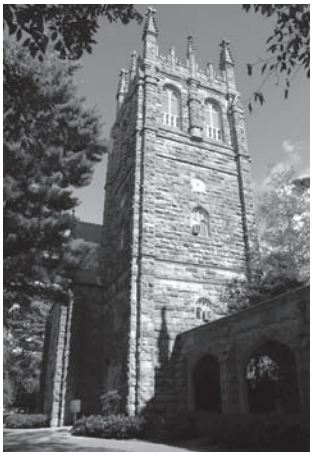
The Plateau became naturally associated with these positive visions of nature. Its cool mountain air and mineral springs were believed to promote health. Its large forests, clear streams, and scenic wonders were considered a balm for the soul. Its altitude and remoteness from the lowland swamps made it a haven from the terrifying yellow fever epidemics that beset many southern planter families. After the Civil War, adherents of the "Lost Cause" and opponents of the "New South" also came to see the Plateau as a symbol of much that had passed away. Others capitalized on its natural beauty to sell land to European immigrants. And in the twentieth century, the plight of impoverished mountain folk inspired visions of progressive change. Thus the Plateau acquired a special identity which inspired a host of utopian ventures and creative enterprises.

Mountain Retreats and Spas

This trend began in the 1830s with the establishment of Beersheba Springs, a mountain retreat which attracted wealthy planter families. The site on the western edge of the Plateau was chosen because of a chalybeate spring there, thought to have health benefits, and because of the stunning views from the clifftops. Like other southern mountain retreats, it was also served as a refuge from the threat of yellow fever. By 1860 the town had 20 Victorian cottages and a luxury hotel. In the summers before the Civil War, social life reached its peak there, with hundreds of guests from the Deep South catered to by French chefs and New Orleans bands. The war left the cottages pillaged, but intact, and many of the owners bankrupt or dead. The town never regained its former glory, but nearly all of the original structures were passed down by the original families and preserved, and Beersheba has continued its traditions as a summer retreat.

The Plateau's distinctive geology produced many sulphur and iron springs. Spa communities sprang up at Bon Air, Deer Lodge, Monterey, Rhea Springs, Nicholson Springs, and Winchester Springs. Bon Air Springs, opened in 1840, may have been the first summer resort in the South. The health value attributed to these springs is evident in the great numbers of clients who came to the Plateau from all over the eastern United States. The town of Oliver Springs took advantage of the new Southern Railroad to enjoy national prominence as a mineral spa.

In 1883 the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly was founded, with inspiration from the new Chatuqua movement. The Assembly took the form of a colony of Victorian cottages where Sunday school teachers came to receive training during the summer in the cool mountain air deemed conducive to learning and health. The colony's stated purpose was to promote the "advancement of science, literary attainment, Sunday school interest and



TOP: The belltower at the University of the South.

BOTTOM: The porch of Andrew Lytle's cabin in the Monteagle Assembly, once a frequent gathering place for many of the South's leading literary figures.

FACING PAGE: Christ Church at Historic Rugby.

promotion of the broadest popular culture in the interest of Christianity without regard to sect or denomination." Like Beersheba, the Assembly's cottages have passed down intact through many generations of owners.

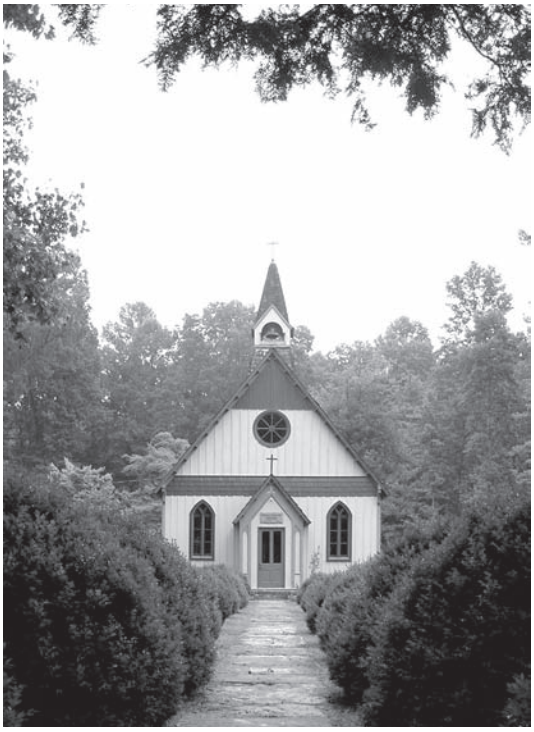
It was ironic that, in a region famous for its whiskey making, the town of Harriman became known as a "Utopia of Temperance." The town was founded by a group of northern industrialists who were strict prohibitionists. Their plan was to create a town of diversified industries with a sober workforce. Apparently the proposition had widespread appeal. At the company's 1890 land sale, thousands of people from all over the United States made bids, and within ten hours 573 lots had sold, each with a provision forbidding the use, making, storage, or selling of intoxicating beverages.

The University of the South

In 1857, the southern Episcopal dioceses decided to found a university to educate the sons of southern planters on the southern edge of the Plateau, at the town of Sewanee. They intended the university to be modeled after Oxford, with similar Gothic architecture and an English tutorial system. The project was halted during the Civil War, and when the school finally opened in 1868, several of its faculty members were former Confederate generals, now impoverished.

The university's bucolic setting attracted and inspired many writers. The nation's oldest continuously published literary magazine, *The Sewanee Review*, was founded there in 1892; and during the Southern Renaissance it became a showcase for many of the South's finest writers. James Agee attended the prep school there and maintained a lifelong relationship with one of his teachers, Father Flye. Agee used the name Sewanee for the fictional setting of his novel *The Morning Watch*. William Alexander Percy, the author of *Lanterns on the Levee* and one of the last exemplars of the old Southern chivalric code, attended the university and referred to it in his later writings as "Arcadia." Percy purchased a house on the edge of the mountain for a summer retreat. His adopted nephew Walker Percy spent his high school and college summers there, accompanied by his best friend Shelby Foote, later a prominent Civil War scholar and author. Together they explored many of the wild gorges and caves of the region. Percy's novel *The Second Coming* depicts one of these, Lost Cove Cave, in well-remembered detail.

During the 1930s and 1940s, the university and the nearby Monteagle Assembly became gathering places for influential southern poets and writers. The poet Allen Tate and his wife, novelist Carolina Gordon, lived there and influenced Walker Percy in his formative stages as an aspiring novelist. Novelist Andrew Lytle's family owned a log cabin of distinctive cruciform plan in the Assembly, and here he



wrote his novel about Nathan Bedford Forest, *At the Moon's Inn.* The presence of Lytle and Tate in the area made it a focal point for the Fugitive Poets and Agrarian writers seeking to express resistance to the loss of rural traditions and human values in the New South. The Chickamauga leader Dragging Canoe came to be seen by some of them as a symbol of the refusal to capitulate to the demands of mindless "progress." In the landmark Agrarian manifesto of 1930, *I'll Take My Stand,* Lytle argued for many of the old-time rural values which were fast disappearing in most parts of the South but were still alive and well on the Plateau. "Return to our looms, our handcrafts, our reproducing stock," he wrote. "Throw out the radio and take down the fiddle from the wall."

European Settlement Schemes

Land speculators who owned large tracts of the Plateau promoted various settlement schemes during the nineteenth century, often resorting to inaccurate descriptions of the land as lush and fertile in order to attract takers. The State of Tennessee, eager to develop the Plateau after the Civil War, also published such inflated claims. As a result, German settlements at Wartburg and Allardt, a Swiss colony at Gruetli, and a Welsh colony in Scott County attracted modest numbers of immigrants. Many of these left when the reality of farming the Plateau's poor soils became apparent, but those who remained continued the agricultural practices they had known before and also adopted many of the practices of the pioneers' descendents. The German settlers at Allardt became quite successful. The town was founded in 1881, and attracted a steady stream of German immigrants, many of them professionals. By 1886 the town had three general stores, a hotel, and a lumber mill. These settlers learned to farm the Plateau tableland successfully by using fertilizers. Adapting to their new conditions, they increased their land holdings and diversified into timber, coal and, more recently, oil and gas. They planted vineyards and introduced winemaking to the region. The Swiss settlers in Gruetli grazed goats and sheep in the forest commons and made cheeses. Some Swiss families found better growing conditions in the lowlands of the Highland Rim, and several farms in Franklin County are still in the hands of Swiss immigrant families.

Rugby

By far the most ambitious and utopian of the Plateau settlement projects was the English colony at Rugby, founded by celebrated English writer and social reformer Thomas Hughes in 1880. Hughes was concerned by the lack of practical options for the younger sons of the English gentry, and he dreamed of establishing an American colony where they would till the soil and benefit from honest, simple labor in a setting free from the constraints of the British social class system. In partnership with a group of Boston land speculators who had purchased 75,000 acres on the Cumberland Plateau, Hughes promoted his idea of a model community set in an Arcadian mountain landscape, and indeed the near-wilderness setting became one of the project's strongest selling points. The colony's

town plan, which included bridle paths, a preserved common forest, and a "Gentlemen's Swimming Hole" on a nearby stream, was designed to allow the residents to benefit from the beauty of nature. At the opening ceremonies, Hughes spoke of "this lovely corner of God's earth," urging the colonists to treat it "lovingly and reverently."

This "last English colony" attracted broad public interest; and by 1881 there were 300 residents, some of them Britons, others French and German, most of them from the United States. At its peak the town boasted a fine inn, boarding houses, an Anglican church, an impressive library, and more than 70 Victorian homes and other buildings, as well as a lively social scene – all this despite the fact that Rugby was located in a remote mountain wilderness with no connection to the outside world other than seven miles of treacherous dirt road to the nearest rail line. It gradually became apparent that the hope of being self-sufficient would prove difficult given the poor soil atop the Plateau. Various schemes to make money were tried and failed. Eventually most of the residents left, and by 1892 the dream had died away. Yet Rugby never quite became a ghost town. A few of the original families and their descendents hung on and cared for the remaining buildings until the town could be rescued in the 1960s and restored as a new kind of utopian community, one which celebrates its nineteenth century traditions and structures.

Norris and TVA

In the twentieth century, three very different kinds of projects came to the Plateau region, all with idealistic goals of bringing assistance to distressed mountain folk. The first arrived in 1933, with the establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority. This new agency, perhaps the most ambitious of the New Deal programs, embraced a utopian mission that extended far beyond the technical work of building dams and generating electricity. TVA saw itself as a national model for demonstrating modern, progressive ideas about healthy communities and quality of life. The details of their planning showed a high degree of idealism and sophistication, coupled with very deep pockets.

The idealism of TVA's early days is most evident in the planned community they designed and built for their workers. Norris Dam on the Clinch River was TVA's first impoundment project, and hundreds of local laborers were needed to work on it. This time they would not be housed in the kind of work camp or company town familiar to them from the logging and coal mining industry. The new city of Norris was a model of progressive urban design. It featured modest homes constructed of native stone and wood, each with a front porch to foster social interactions. Some were starkly modern, modular structures designed to be easily built with a newly available building material: plywood. The houses were spaced closely enough together to make the whole city walkable. A buffer zone of protected, undeveloped forest surrounded the town, and the world's first utilitarian, limited-access road, a precursor of today's Interstate Highways, connected it to the city of Knoxville.

The same idealistic spirit revealed itself in the appearance of TVA's dams and support structures, designed by a young Hungarian architect named Roland Wank. In an interview shortly after he arrived in Tennessee, Wank stated, "I always want to feel that my work is out of some public interest, and that it will add to the comfort and enjoyment of many." Wank's design for Norris Dam and its powerhouse suggested heroic modern sculpture, a radical change from the plodding functionalism of previous federally constructed dams. The design of Norris Dam established a trademark pattern for all of TVA's later projects.

The national press took note of the great social experiment going on in Tennessee. An architecture critic wrote about Wank's design, "At Hoover Dam, one was impressed by the

The library and meeting hall at the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, which served as an important training center for Civil Rights leaders.

sheer size. But at a TVA dam one was reminded of humanistic values, of power serving man...of the virtues of public ownership of hydroelectric power." *Fortune* magazine gave the young James Agee his first writing job, to report on the Norris Dam project, seen by many at the time as one of the biggest business stories of the century. Agee wrote, "In this enormous machine the balance wheel is human." Ernie Pyle, who would soon become America's most influential war correspondent, spent an extended period reporting on TVA to the nation. He wrote, in characteristic fashion, "TVA, as nearly as I can figure out, is an attempt to do the same thing to a whole section of the United States that a doctor does to a man who is all smashed up in an auto accident. And that is, fix him up."

The Cumberland Homesteads

During the Great Depression, New Deal agencies embarked on various programs to provide homes and self-sustaining farms for out-of-work, homeless workers. The Cumberland Homesteads community near Crossville was one of the largest and most successful of these. The Homesteads was a planned community of small farms that included a park, a school, and a forested commons. A pattern book of appropriate house designs, to be built by the eventual occupants from local wood and stone, was developed specially for the project by one of TVA's Norris architects. The homes had TVA electricity and modern conveniences, a fact that drew fire from some Washington politicians who complained that the residences were too grand for rural folk.

TOP: A house in the Cornstalk Heights Historic District (NRHP) in Harriman.

BOTTOM: A storefront in Oliver Springs.

FACING PAGE: The Harriman Library Building (NRHP) and site of the Harriman Heritage Museum.

A total of 251 houses were built, providing homes for the families of unemployed miners and timber workers from surrounding counties. Through subsequent years the community remained relatively intact, though, as with previous Plateau settlement projects, the vision of the homesteaders becoming self-sustaining farmers proved unworkable in the poor soil of the Plateau.

The Highlander Folk School

In 1932, a young idealist named Myles Horton, founded the Highlander Folk School at a donated farm just outside Monteagle. This institution would eventually play a pivotal role in the course of the Civil Rights movement in America. Horton's original goal was to help improve the lives of impoverished mountaineers, a desire that had begun with a summer job teaching in a Presbyterian Bible school in Ozone, a small Plateau community. After several years of research, he decided to found a school on the Plateau based on the principles of the Danish folk school movement, which stressed empowerment of rural people. His aim was to educate "rural and industrial leaders for a new social order," and the Plateau's contentious coal mining history made labor organizing a natural target. Shortly after the school opened in 1932, one of the Fugitive poets got Horton involved in helping striking coal mine workers at Wilder. He stated later that the viciousness of that conflict, in which the union leader was eventually murdered by hired gunman, galvanized his commitment to social justice. From that point through the 1940s, Highlander's focus was on building a progressive labor movement among the region's workers.

In 1953 the school shifted its interests to the emerging Civil Rights movement. Many of the movement's key figures attended workshops organized at Highlander for civil rights leaders, among them Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Andrew Young, and Stokeley Carmichael. Rosa Parks attended a workshop at Highlander not long before her celebrated refusal to move to the back of a Montgomery bus. The school gave civil rights organizers their first introduction to the song "We Shall Overcome," originally adapted from a hymn and used by striking tobacco workers near Charleston, SC, later popularized by Pete Seeger while working at Highlander. The school was always controversial and was often accused of having Communist leanings. In 1960 it was ordered closed by a Tennessee court on grounds it had violated its charter by "permitting integration in its school work." Horton immediately opened a new school in East Tennessee, called the Highlander Research and Education Center, and that institution still pursues its founder's original social justice mission.

Heritage Preservation Initiatives for this Theme

With the exception of Historic Rugby, most of the resources associated with this theme have not received the level of interpretive attention which their national significance warrants. This failing is especially evident in the case of the Highlander Folk School and its critical role in the Civil Rights movement. The Cumberland Plateau Heritage Corridor will seek to research and present the stories of these sites and the roles they have played as key interaction points between the Plateau and the world beyond.

In addition, the nineteenth century towns at Beersheba, the Monteagle Assembly, and Rugby represent a rich storehouse of traditional wisdom in the form of development patterns and related community cultures. The Cumberland Plateau Heritage Corridor will seek to better understand how these towns have functioned at the human level and to develop models of sensitive, sustainable development which incorporate the lessons to be learned from these excellent examples.

Interpretive Resources for this Theme

Mountain Retreats and Spas:

Beersheba Springs Historic District (NRHP), Grundy County. A rare example of an early nineteenth century mountain retreat, fully intact and restored.

Monteagle Sunday School Assembly Historic District (NRHP), Grundy County. The only Chatauqua community still existing in the South, all Victorian cottages completely intact and restored; includes Andrew Lytle's log cabin.

Oliver Springs Historic District, Roane County.

Harriman:

Cornstalk Heights Historic District (NRHP), Roane County.

Harriman City Hall (NRHP) , Roane County.

Roane County Courthouse (NRHP), Roane County.

Roane Street Commercial Historic District (NRHP), Roane County.

University of the South:

In Franklin County, the largest college campus in the nation, including two tracts of virgin forest, one a national Natural Landmark. Includes seven Gothic revival buildings built before 1890 from native stone quarried on the campus.

European Settlement Schemes:

Allardt Historic District (NRHP), Fentress County.

Bruno Gernt House (NRH), Fentress County. A bed and breakfast inn.

Gruetli-Laager, Grundy County. Includes the Stoker-Stampfli Farm (NRHP), an original Swiss colony homestead and cemetery, and an annual Swiss Heritage celebration.

Rugby Colony Historic District:

A National Register district in Morgan County with 20 historic structures intact, 12 of them restored and open to the public. Includes the Hughes Public Library, one of the finest collections of Victorian literature in America with 7,000 original volumes, unchanged since 1882.

Norris:

Norris Historic District (NRHP), Anderson County.

Norris Dam State Park, Anderson County.

Norris Watershed City Park, Anderson County.

Cumberland Homesteads Historic District:

National Register district in Cumberland County., with 218 original homes still intact.

Highlander Folk School:

Nationally important center for labor and civil rights training in Grundy County. The site several original buildings, are intact.

THEME 4: PRESERVATION OF THE COMMONS

The evolution of attitudes about nature and the frontier commons is central to the story of the Cumberland Plateau, making it an ideal setting to interpret the emergence of a conservation ethic in America. Many forces of history have come to bear on the forest lands of the Plateau during the past 200 years, each reflecting the currently prevailing notions about the best use of undeveloped land and its natural resources. As the effects of land speculation and resource extraction have swept over the region, the local residents have maintained a strong sense of values about appropriate land uses. Over time, these values have emerged to promote the concept of a restored, protected commons as an essential element of survival and well-being. In more recent times, the local conception of the "commons" has evolved to accept the likelihood that private property may not remain accessible to the public in the future and that the only means of preserving traditional public uses of the forest is to press for public ownership where possible.

Early Land Speculation Schemes

Land speculators and resource companies that acquired large tracts of the forest lands atop the Plateau during the nineteenth century did so in hopes of great profits. Eventually, lack of good transportation or of expected resources eventually rendered many of these investments useless to the owners. One example was Mark Twain's father, John Clemens, a Jamestown lawyer and later postmaster of Pall Mall, who purchased 80,000 acres in Fentress County, hoping to profit from land appreciation. Anticipated gains did not materialize, and Clemens moved the family to Missouri, where his celebrated son was born a few months later. He continued to believe his Tennessee holdings would one day make them wealthy, and to his dying day he urged the family to hold onto the land. His son later parodied this failed Tennessee land speculation scheme in *The Gilded Age*.

Some of these written-off surplus properties became the first protected common lands on the Plateau. In the 1850s, the Sewanee Coal Company acquired large tracts of land at the southern end of the Plateau after coal had been discovered there. After building a railroad spur from the Chattanooga-Nashville main line up the mountain to Sewanee, the steepest rail line in the nation at that time, the company found that the Sewanee seam contained far less coal than expected. Their land there became surplus, and they donated 10,000 acres to the southern Episcopal Dioceses for the site of the University of the South. The university thereby acquired the largest college campus in America, which today contains two tracts of virgin timber, one of them a National Natural Landmark.

In another example of a failed land speculation scheme that became converted to conservation, a Boston company acquired 75,000 acres in Morgan County in hopes of developing a settlement for industrial workers thrown out of work by a depression. An economic turnaround reduced demand for their settlement, and the owners sought a buyer. Thomas Hughes, searching for a land for his utopian colony, entered into a partnership with the Boston owners and founded his Rugby colony there.

The New Deal

Coming on the heels of decades of thoughtless logging, the New Deal embraced the emerging concept of scientific forest management, first introduced in America by Gifford Pinchot. "Conservation means the greatest good to the greatest number for the longest time," Pinchot wrote. "It demands the complete and orderly development of all our resources for the benefit of all the people, instead of the partial exploitation of them for the benefit of a few. It recognizes…our obligation

Piney Creek Falls in Falls Creek Falls State Park, originally developed as a National Recreation Demonstration Area under the New Deal.

so to use what we need that our descendants shall not be deprived of what they need."

Pinchot's principles came to the Plateau in the form of two New Deal programs: the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Civilian Conservation Corps. A key part of TVA's mission was flood control, and to that end the new agency began to practice watershed management, another of Pinchot's visionary policies, replanting forests to stabilize slopes and retard runoff. The Norris Watershed was an early TVA watershed stabilization project which is now in old-growth forest. Large upstream areas of the Tennessee River watershed were reclaimed in this way, including lands in the Cumberland Plateau region.

Flood control was also an important rationale for many CCC projects on the Plateau. The new agency, known as the "Tree Army," set up work camps on the Plateau and hired out-of-work mountain men, putting them to work replanting the devastated forests. The timber companies, eager to liquidate now worthless lands and avoid future taxes, urged a new concept of state-owned forests. Lands replanted by the CCC became Lone Mountain, Bledsoe, Pickett, Franklin-Marion, Scott, and Grundy State Forests. Other New Deal agencies reclaimed lands that became Chuck Swan and Standing Stone State Forest. These protected parcels of the Plateau's forest lands were primarily intend as timber growing resources, but they also continued to served the Plateau folk as a *de facto* frontier commons where hunting, foraging, and free ranging of livestock could continue.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, the notion of "outdoor recreation" as a necessary component of the well-being of the workforce had gained recognition. J. Horace McFarland, one of the early champions of national parks, once observed, "The park is the closest competitor in the United States of the courts, of the jail, of the cemetery, and a very efficient competitor with all of them." The New Deal adopted this concept as especially necessary for a nation of distressed citizens. Areas of exceptional scenic beauty became more valued for their aesthetics than for their timber and minerals, and the Plateau now became identified as a region of outstanding recreational resources for the general public. One such resource was the spectacular Fall Creek Falls, the highest waterfall in the eastern United States. The area containing the falls was chosen as a National Recreation Demonstration Area, later becoming Fall Creek Falls State Park. CCC reclamation projects also created Pickett, Frozen Head, Booker T. Washington, Harrison Bay, Grundy Lakes, and Cumberland Mountain State Parks. TVA articulated its own vision of quality of life by developing outdoor recreation areas which became Cove Lake and Norris Dam State Parks.

Local Conservation Initiatives

During the New Deal the Plateau's conservation projects were undertaken by Federal agencies, reflecting broad national concerns about flood control, employment, and recreation, with the local folk involved only as laborers. The year 1944 marked a turning point when Plateau residents began to express their beliefs about the frontier commons in the public arena. Members of the Crossville Exchange Club urged the State to purchase a large tract of land and manage it for wildlife and hunting. This request led to the establishment of the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, a 79,000-acre tract that restored and protected a large remnant of the area's traditional hunting grounds.

By the 1960s, residents of the corridor began to organize to preserve important pieces of the frontier environment. By now the focus had shifted to protection of river corridors, and with it came a new emphasis on protection of fragile habitats and non-game species. The Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP), a group formed by Oak Ridge residents, became active in or-

The gorge in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

ganizing local support for protection of the region's rivers. In 1969 the TCWP successfully pressed the Tennessee legislature to pass the first comprehensive State Scenic Rivers act in the nation, and soon the Plateau region had four of its rivers under protection. The group put special emphasis on protecting two of the Plateau's most significant river gorges: the Obed River system and the Big South Fork of the Cumberland. With the strong support of local residents and the leadership of Senator Howard Baker, they succeeded in having the Big South Fork designated as a National River and Recreation Area in 1974, protecting some 66,000 acres of prime wilderness on the Plateau in Tennessee. Designation of the Obed as a National Wild and Scenic River followed in 1976.

The Big South Fork project was groundbreaking in many ways. Its dual status reflected the need to conserve wilderness values in the river gorge while also allowing the less sensitive areas atop the Plateau to continue their traditional function as frontier commons open to multiple uses. This recognition of the importance of the local traditions was reflected in the National Park Service's decision to consider cultural values in developing the Environmental Impact Statement for the project. An in-depth anthropological research project ensued, resulting in Benita Howell's influential book *Folkways of the Big South Fork,* which broke new ground in documenting the critical links between an endangered traditional culture and the land base on which it had long depended.

The multiple use formula established for the Big South Fork recognized the local culture's need for land that would not merely be protected but could also continue to serve as a frontier commons. This concept was replicated in several State projects, most notably Fall Creek Falls State Park, where a resort park coexists with an old-growth forest and hunting lands; Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area and Sundquist Wildlife Management Area, which are jointly managed for coal mining and recreational uses; and Savage Gulf State

Natural Area, which protects a nationally significant virgin forest while allowing hunting in less sensitive areas.

As the local culture began to have a greater voice in the disposition of lands on the Plateau, a patchwork of locally driven projects emerged. Many of these involved owners of land that had been in their families for generations. The Savage family had long taken pains to avoid logging their last tracts of uncut timber; and in the 1970s they donated their land to become the Savage Gulf State Natural Area, which is a National Natural Landmark containing one of the most significant tracts of virgin mixed mesophytic forest in the nation. Two other families of long-time landowners, the Greeters and Werners, donated additional lands to the project. The tradition of the commons was especially strong among the Swiss, and it is telling that all three of these families were descendents of the original settlers of Gruetli. Herman Baggenstoss, another descendent of one of the Gruetli Swiss families, was instrumental in the establishment of Savage Gulf State Natural Area and the South Cumberland State Recreation Area.

A group of residents who were concerned that their traditional hunting and recreational lands were about to be sold to developers persuaded the owners, Bridgestone/Firestone Corp., to donate the acreage to the State. It is now protected as the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial WMA. Another local group formed the North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy and succeeded in having a scenic gorge protected as a State Natural Area.

Brian Stagg, a Morgan county high school student, became fascinated by the then nearly deserted town of Rugby and spearheaded the drive to restore and preserve it. His efforts resulted in a revival of the colony. Brian's sister Barbara Stagg continues the family mission as executive director of Historic Rugby, overseeing the restoration of structures and implementation of the original, forward-looking town plan, which includes a common forest around the town.

A Wartburg school teacher, Don Todd, led a campaign to have the State to protect a large tract in Morgan County as Frozen Head State Natural Area. The Gernt family of Allardt, one of the original German immigrant families, took steps to protect Buffalo Cove and various caves on their extensive land holdings. More recently Miss Maggie Barger, county historian of Scott County, helped organize an effort to preserve the Glenmary Coke Ovens site, which is now proposed for the National Register of Historic Places and will soon undergo restoration.

When a land development company planned to subdivide and sell 29,000 acres in Campbell County, the local folk united to preserve their traditional right to "go to the mountains." Under the leadership of a local judge, Lee Asbury, the unusual solution was devised of forming a public service corporation to lease the land for traditional uses. Some 11,000 local families contributed $50 per year to pay the lease and keep the property open as a commons. Eventually the State was persuaded to purchase the tract, which is now protected as the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area. These and many other similar efforts by local residents reflect the fact that their culture places a high value on conservation of the Plateau's traditional forest commons heritage.

Chattanooga

Strong cultural support for preservation of natural and cultural heritage also emerged among the residents of Chattanooga, a historic city which is dominated by the towering escarpments of the Cumberland Plateau and the gorge of the Tennessee River. The city had always been a primary gateway to the Cumberland Plateau and the Tennessee River Gorge, and it also had a history of landmark historic preservation efforts. Chattanooga

resident and later New York Times owner Adolph Ochs was instrumental in acquiring land for the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, the first such park in the nation. The city was also a leader in early commercial recreation based on natural attractions, with sites such as Rock City, Ruby Falls, and the Lookout Mountain Incline Railway.

After a long industrial legacy resulted in a Federal citation for unacceptable air quality in the 1970s, the city launched a spirited program to transform itself. The long-neglected downtown and inner city neighborhoods were restored and revitalized. The abandoned Union Station became a major attraction. A 22-mile riverside greenway project was set in motion. The 1891 Walnut Street Bridge, originally slated for demolition, was saved and adapted into the longest pedestrian bridge in the world. The Tennessee Aquarium was established as the first major aquarium in the nation to interpret mainly freshwater species, with a focus on the Southern Appalachian region. The Tennessee River Gorge Trust was formed to protect the resources of the scenic river gorge, which contains nationally significant Native American sites and served as one of the major routes for westward migration. Due to this group's efforts and those of others, Moccasin Bend National Archaeological District, a site containing artifacts dating back 14,000 years, became designated as a unit of the National Park System. Thanks to these and many other initiatives, Chattanooga is recognized nationally as a model city for its aggressive urban revitalization efforts and the sensitive attention it has given to its natural and cultural heritage.

Corporate Conservation

Corporate owners of large Plateau tracts have also participated in setting aside portions of the old frontier commons. Stearns Lumber and Coal Company led the way by donating land for Pickett State Park and the Big South Fork NRRA. Huber Lumber Company donated lands to be added to Savage Gulf State Natural Area and Fall Creek Falls State Park. Bowater Southern Paper Company, the largest timberland owner on the Plateau with over 95,000 acres, set aside five special scenic areas to become State Natural Areas. One of these contains the first National Recreation Trail on private land in the nation. Bowater is currently conducting studies of its Plateau holdings

The Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, the only such facility in the nation which displays and interprets the highly diverse freshwater species of the Southern Appalachians.

to identify those of ecological, geological or historical significance. Bridgestone/Firestone donated pristine land in Scott's Gulf to become a new wildlife management area. All of these corporate land conservation measures reflect a widespread, growing recognition that the Cumberland Plateau's wildlands are indeed a national treasure and that this last vestige of the Old Southwest frontier deserves to be preserved.

Heritage Preservation Initiative for this Theme

The Cumberland Plateau's interpretive theme of the preservation of the frontier commons will highlight and give added focus to the many ongoing efforts by the region's residents to preserve their traditional culture and to protect additional remnants of the commons. Indeed, the evolving concept of "cultural conservation" as directly linked to conservation of threatened natural resources makes the Cumberland Plateau a potential testing ground for bringing these two important preservation disciplines closer together. As concepts of "heritage" continue to expand outward from built environments into more regions where the natural landscape is dominant, the Cumberland Plateau Heritage Corridor will seek to serve as a national model for integration of the realms of human and natural heritage.

Interpretive Resources for this Theme

Early Land Speculation Schemes:

Rugby Colony Historic District (NRHP), Morgan County.

University of the South (NRHP), Franklin County.

New Deal Forest Reclamation:

Bledsoe State Forest, Bledsoe, Cumberland and Van Buren Counties.

Chuck Swan State Forest, Campbell County.

Franklin State Forest, Franklin and Marion Counties.

Lone Mountain State Forest, Morgan County.

Scott State Forest, Scott County.

New Deal Parks:

Booker T. Washington State Park, Hamilton County.

Cumberland Mountain State Park, Cumberland County.

Fall Creek Falls State Park, Van Buren County.

Frozen Head State Natural Area, Morgan County.

Grundy Lakes Historic District (NRHP), Grundy County.

Harrison Bay State Park, Hamilton County.

Pickett State Rustic Park Historic District (NRHP), Pickett County.

Standing Stone Rustic Park Historic District (NRHP), Overton County.

TVA Projects:

Cove Lake Park, Campbell County.

Norris Dam State Park, Anderson and Campbell Counties.

Norris Watershed City Park, Anderson County.

Local Conservation Efforts:

Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Scott, Morgan, and Fentress Counties.

Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wildlife Management Area, White County.

Catoosa Wildlife Management Area, Cumberland, Fentress and Morgan Counties.

Frozen Head State Natural Area, Morgan County. This 12,000-acre tract ranks second only to the Great Smoky Mountains its variety of wildflowers.

North Chickamauga Creek State Natural Area, Hamilton County.

Obed National Wild and Scenic River, Morgan County.
Rugby Colony Historic District (NRHP), Morgan County.
Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area, Campbell County.
Savage Gulf State Natural Area and National Natural Landmark, Grundy County.

Chattanooga:

Chattanooga Car Barns (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Chattanooga Union Station (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Ferger Place Historic District (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Fort Wood Historic District (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Fountain Square Historic District (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Glenwood Historic District (NRHP), Hamilton County.
M. L. King Boulevard Historic District (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Lookout Mountain Caverns and Cavern Castle Historic District (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Lookout Mountain Incline Railway (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Market and Main Streets Historic District (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Market Square-Patten Parkway Historic District (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Market Street Warehouse Historic District (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Moccasin Bend Archaeological District National Historic Landmark (NRHP), Hamilton County.
Tennessee Aquarium, Hamilton County.
Tennessee River Gorge, Hamilton and Marion Counties.
Tennessee Riverwalk Greenway, Hamilton County.

Corporate Conservation:

Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wildlife Management Area, White County.
Honey Creek Pocket Wilderness State Natural Area, Pickett County.
Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness State Natural Area, Rhea County.
North Chickamauga Creek State Natural Area, Hamilton and Sequatchie Counties.
Stinging Fork Pocket Wilderness State Natural Area, Rhea County.
Virgin Falls Pocket Wilderness State Natural Area, White County.

COMPARISON WITH EXISTING AND PROPOSED NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

The National Heritage Areas most closely related to the Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Area are the designated and proposed National Heritage Areas of the Southern Appalachian Highlands. Interpretation of the Cumberland Plateau region in Tennessee must take place within the broader context of the entire Southern Appalachians, a mountain landscape that stretches across parts of West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. As scholars in Appalachian Studies have thoroughly documented, the Southern Appalachian region has many common elements of history and a distinctive, shared legacy of traditional folkways. Likewise, the region shares a common ecosystem – the globally important temperate hardwood forest which supports an exceptionally diverse array of plant and animal species. The story of the Southern Appalachian Highlands is diverse and complex. It has much to tell us about our evolution as a nation.

In Southern Appalachia, strong family and community ties and long-term land ownership patterns have created a genealogical landscape where "heritage" has a very special, highly relevant, meaning. It is therefore appropriate that several areas of the region have embraced the National Heritage Areas program as an ex-

Long's Mill near Beersheba Springs, known to many generations as one of the Plateau's most spectacular swimming holes.

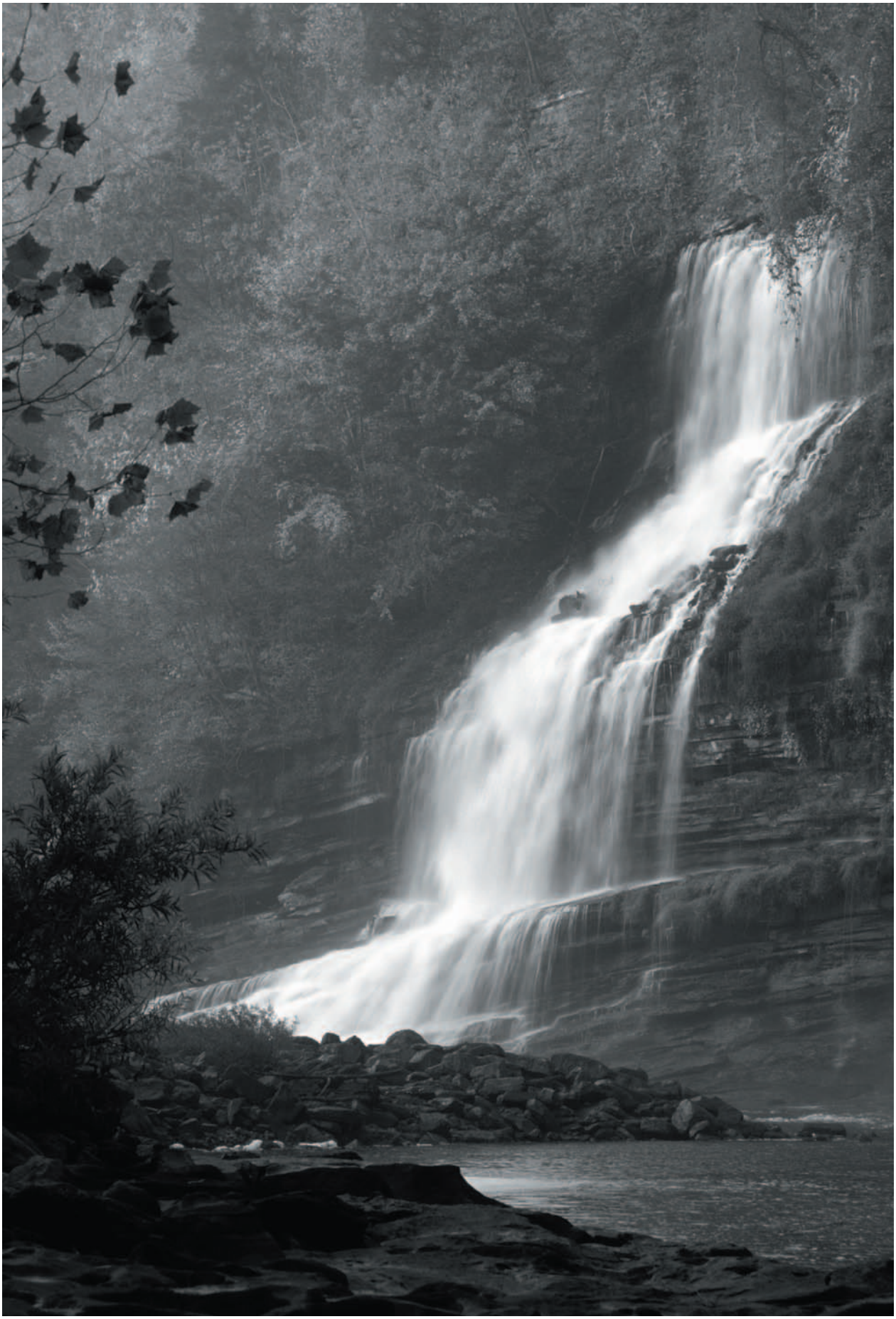
cellent means of telling their distinctive stories and keeping their heritage intact.

Each of the National Heritage Areas in the region has adapted itself to tell the larger Appalachian story from a different perspective. **The Coal National Heritage Area** in West Virginia interprets the significant history of mining in the region, which has been the nation's largest producer of the raw material of the nation's energy and industry. **The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area** in North Carolina focuses on the region's rich legacy of music, crafts, agriculture, and Cherokee traditions. The proposed **Tennessee Overhill National Heritage Area**, which was the center of Cherokee culture and history, interprets that tribal story as well as the impacts of wars and the industrial revolution on the region. The proposed **Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area**, located at the north end of the Southern Appalachians in West Virginia, tells the story from the perspective of timber resources. The proposed **Kentucky Highlands and Lakes National Heritage Area**, which adjoins the proposed Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Area, has not yet defined its key interpretive focus but has expressed interest in coordinating its themes with those of its Tennessee partners. Each of these heritage area projects can add an important and distinctive layer to the story of Southern Appalachian history and culture.

One of the most important themes of the Southern Appalachian region, one which is central to the entire American experience, is the story of the frontier: how the wilderness environment appeared to the first pioneer explorers and settlers, how early settlers adapted the skills and culture needed to survive in the natural environment, how these settlers interacted and often clashed with the contrasting plantation and industrial cultures of the lowlands, how the idea of the vanishing "unspoiled frontier" inspired a wide variety of idealistic enterprises, and how understanding and appreciation of the frontier commons and the culture that it has supported have evolved over time. The overarching theme of the Old Southwest Frontier is not specifically presented by other National Heritage Areas of the region, though elements of it are touched on by all.

The Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee is quite possibly the best place for presenting this theme. The region's environment and culture have been less altered by coal mining, timbering, and land development than most of the Southern Appalachians. Unlike similar regions in West Virginia, Kentucky, and North Carolina, the original settlement patterns of the Tennessee Cumberland Plateau have been only minimally altered by Federal land purchases. In addition, as the farthest southwestern extension of the Southern Appalachians, other than remnants found in northern Alabama, the Tennessee Plateau rises sharply on both sides above agricultural lowlands with a very different culture and history. This sharp juxtaposition of the wild mountain plateau and the cultivated valleys is quite unusual in the Southern Appalachians. It allows the Tennessee Plateau to explore the complex interactions which took place between these two neighboring worlds. In essence, the Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor is a preserved cross-section of the whole American frontier saga, from first exploration to isolated homesteads to the eventual transformation of the entire landscape.

This theme also combines natural heritage and cultural heritage to a much greater degree than elsewhere, presenting the globally significant biodiversity of the Southern Appalachian forest as a central feature of the region's story. Likewise, the frontier theme allows the Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Area to focus attention on the many important efforts past and present to conserve both the natural environment and the elements of traditional frontier culture.



Falls at Rock Island State Park.

CHAPTER 5: FEDERAL CRITERIA FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

National Significance Criteria

The National Park Service has developed two related sets of criteria for determining the national significance or national importance of sites proposed as NPS Affiliated Areas: the "Criteria for Parklands Properties Proposed for Incorporation into the National Park System or Affiliated Area," and the "Criteria for National Heritage Areas." Together, these criteria address the essential question: is the candidate area worthy of the extraordinary national distinction of NPS affiliation?

Additional items within these two sets of criteria address the important question of the feasibility of a relationship between the local area and the NPS, and those are addressed in the second section of this chapter: "Suitability and Feasibility Criteria."

The most valuable asset of a National Heritage Area is the official Federal recognition that its historic, natural, and cultural resources are truly outstanding and important to the nation. This recognition provides both the motivation within the region to protect and preserve these valuable resources and the means of building public awareness of them outside the region. Each National Heritage Area depends on the overall integrity of an NHA "brand" which assures the public that they will encounter nationally significant resources coupled with excellent management and interpretation, just as they have learned to expect at the units of the NPS System.

The Alliance for the Cumberlands has therefore undertaken this study with the intent of rigorously exploring whether a Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor would be a worthy addition to the ranks of existing National Heritage Areas. As the sections below document in detail, the region is a highly qualified candidate which clearly satisfies all the Federal criteria for national significance or importance.

1. AN ASSEMBLAGE OF NATIONALLY IMPORTANT RESOURCES

Federal Criteria:

- **"The area has an assemblage of natural, historic, cultural, educational, scenic, or recreational resources that together are nationally important to the heritage of the United States."**
- **"The area provides outstanding recreational … opportunities."**
- **"The area has resources ... that have national importance."**

Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau should be considered nationally important by virtue of the outstanding quality and variety of its biological, geological, recreational and cultural resources.

Biodiversity

The Plateau represents a rare remnant and an outstanding example of the globally important Southern Appalachian forest, which is now vanishing due to human settlement and development over much of its range. Exceptional diversity of biological species is found throughout the corridor. Its large forest tracts provide critical nesting habitat for many neotropical songbirds as well as habitat for one of only three elk herds in the eastern United States. Its narrow gorges harbor some of the last surviving examples of old-growth mixed

mesophytic forest in the nation, three of which have been designated National Natural Landmarks in recognition of their national importance. Its contains the nation's highest diversity of cave species, with new species being discovered routinely; and its many caves provide critical roosting habitat for large populations of federally listed bat species. In addition, an unusually large number of isolated populations has created one of the most diverse freshwater habitats in the world. The region is considered the global center of evolution for amphibians, crayfish, and certain groups of bivalve mussels. Its cliff and bluff habitats contain numerous glacial relict species from the last ice age at the southernmost limit of their ranges. It is suspected that these relict species may have provided a genetic reservoir for northward repopulation during interglacial periods. Recent research suggests that the Plateau may have a greater diversity of woody plants and bryophytes than the Great Smoky Mountains.

The region harbors a concentrated population of a rare plant or animal species, providing a critical refuge for continued survival of 158 species which are globally ranked as extremely or very rare, and 55 species which are federally listed, making it a national hotspot for rare and endangered species. By virtue of its exceptional biodiversity alone, the Plateau is widely considered to be a national treasure. An extensive and long-term record of research and scientific discovery in the area has produced an invaluable ecological benchmark for the Southern Appalachian bioregion; and, if protected, the region can provide superlative future opportunities for valuable scientific study.

Geology

Unlike most of the Appalachian chain, the rock strata of the Plateau are generally in level beds, resulting in geological landforms which differ markedly from those of all other mountains of the east, except the adjoining region of Kentucky. This unique geology has created outstanding scenic qualities. The erosion resistant sandstone caprock has created a wall 1,000 feet high and 30 to 50 miles wide with hundreds of miles of vertical and overhanging escarpments exposed along its edges. Narrow, cliff-lined gorges, suggestive of landforms

Buzzard Point at Fall Creek Falls State Park.

found in the American West, carve deeply into the Plateau along its western edge and in the watersheds of the Big South Fork and Obed Rivers. The Sequatchie Valley, which bisects the southern half, is one of the longest and straightest anticlinal valleys in the world, with its headwaters in the gigantic sink of Grassy Cove, a National Natural Landmark.

Erosional processes have created scenic features of extraordinary variety and quality. A total of 104 waterfalls have been identified on public lands, including Fall Creek Falls, the highest falls in the eastern United States. The region has the nation's highest concentration of natural arches, with a total of 107 identified on public lands, including the spectacular Twin Arches in the BSFNRRA. The concentration caves in the corridor is exceptional. One survey has identified 5,543 caves in the corridor extending for a total of 735 miles. Many of the region's caves are nationally significant, including 35 of the longest and 23 of the deepest caves in the country as well as the largest cave room and the largest cave entrance east of the Mississippi River. Two have received National Natural Landmark status in recognition of their national importance.

National Natural Landmarks:

The following National Natural Landmarks in the corridor have been recognized as nationally important resources:

Big Bone Cave State Natural Area.
Conley Hole.
Cumberland Caverns.
Grassy Cove Karst Area.
Piney Falls State Natural Area.
Savage Gulf State Natural Area.
Thumping Dick Cove.

Public Recreation Resources

The Plateau contains an outstanding assemblage of high-quality recreational and scenic resources that together are nationally important to the heritage of the United States. Two areas which have already received formal NPS determination of national importance are the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and the Obed National Wild and Scenic River. These two National Park units comprise a total of 131 miles of prime recreational waters. In addition, 1,157 miles of rivers and streams in the corridor have been classified in the NPS National Rivers Inventory as having one or more "outstandingly remarkable" natural or cultural values judged to be of more than local or regional significance.

The State of Tennessee, recognizing that the Cumberland Plateau possesses exceptional geological, biological and scenic resources worthy of continued public use and permanent protection, has acquired a total of 510,000 acres in the corridor for public enjoyment. These lands include:

- 23 State Natural Areas (31,500 acres)
- 16 State Parks (23,457 acres)
- 8 State Forests (75,328 acres)
- 31 State Wildlife Management Areas (379,559 acres)

The Plateau offers a rich assortment of opportunities for walking for pleasure, the recreation activity with the highest participation among Americans. Public lands in the corridor contain a total of 1,050 miles of trails, including the long-distance Cumberland Trail, currently under construction, which connects many of the Plateau's most outstanding parks and scenic spots. Approximately 700 miles of State Scenic Byways and many more miles of scenic secondary roads provide ample opportunities for driving for pleasure, the number two recreational activity of Americans; viewing natural scenery, the number three activity; and bicycling. These roads give access to the Plateau's scenic viewsheds, which include 3.8 million acres of forest and hundreds of old, picturesque family farms.

The Tennessee Valley Authority manages six reservoirs in the corridor totalling 136,807

acres, and the Corps of Engineers manages two reservoirs totalling 45,920 acres. These resources provide excellent opportunities for swimming, boating and fishing.

Other outstanding recreational resources in the corridor include primitive wilderness areas for camping, high diversity of plants and animals for viewing and photographing, excellent whitewater streams for canoeing and kayaking, many miles of forest tracks for off-road driving and mountain biking, 379,559 acres managed for hunting, 10 high-quality rock-climbing areas, and literally thousands of caves for spelunking.

Cultural and Historic Resources

The Cumberland Plateau corridor contains an exceptional collection of nationally significant cultural and historic resources that outstandingly illustrate the nationally important role of the frontier experience over a 200-year span of time, from the pioneer era to the Atomic Age. These resources represent broad national patterns of Americans' complex, evolving relationships with the wilderness frontier. This is a region from which understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained.

Historical and cultural resources in the corridor which have already been judged to be of national significance include the following:

National Park Units and Affiliated Areas:

Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park, recently expanded to include Moccasin Bend Archaeological District.

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.

Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (under development.)

Russell Cave National Monument (immediately adjacent to the corridor in Alabama.)

Manhattan Project National Historical Park (under development.)

National Historic Landmarks:

Alvin Cullom York Farm Historic District National Historic Landmark.

Moccasin Bend Archaeological District National Historic Landmark.

Rhea County Courthouse National Historic Landmark .

X-10 Reactor, Oak Ridge National Laboratory National Historic Landmark.

The region contains a collection of other sites which, by their integrity and thematic associations, represent a nationally important assemblage. These resources include the following:

National Register of Historic Places:

245 sites on the National Register of Historic Places, 129 open to the public.

47 Historic Districts, which include Historic Rugby, the Cumberland Homesteads, the Cornstalk Heights Historic District in Harriman, the Monteagle Assembly, Historic Beersheba, the collection of coke ovens at the Grundy Lakes State Historic Area, the Oak Ridge Historic District, and the South Pittsburg Historic District.

Remnants of several historic roads across the Plateau still exist, including Daniel Boone's Wilderness Road, the Avery Trace and Walton Road, the Trail of Tears, and the Chattanooga-McMinnville Stage Road.

The Nickajack Reservoir provides access to the spectacular Tennessee River Gorge, site of important Native American habitation and the water route for pioneer era migration to the west.

2. DISTINCTIVE ASPECTS OF OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE

Federal Criteria:

- **"The area represents distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use."**
- **"The area reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folk life that are a valuable part of the heritage of the United States."**
- **"The area has ... traditional uses that have national importance."**

In 1975, the National Park Service commissioned a survey of cultural resources of the region within and surrounding the proposed Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. This research, led by University of Tennessee anthropologist Benita Howell and published in *Folklife along the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River*, has provided the keys for this feasibility study in identifying the elements which make the Cumberland Plateau a nationally important, culturally distinctive region. Through Howell's research, the NPS broke new ground in applying the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to include the protection of intangible aspects of culture as well as material resources. This example has been frequently cited as a model by the American Folklife Center and others in the emerging cultural heritage conservation movement as well as the NPS applied ethnography program for the National Park System. It has also helped to spur new research in the cultural history of Appalachia, a region which has long suffered from misinformed cultural stereotypes, and on the cultural impacts of land-use policy in the region.

Benita Howell's study confirms the continued existence of a rich array of traditions, customs, beliefs, and folk life in the northern Cumberland Plateau which show the imprint of the pioneer era of early settlement. This work represents the most detailed and in-depth cultural research ever undertaken any-

An old-time quilting bee at the Museum of Appalachia.

where in the Plateau region. It documents a wide range of cultural resources, including structures, tools, handcrafts, foodways, medicine, speech, folklore, oral traditions, music and dance, religious traditions, and social customs. Among Howell's conclusions are the following:

"Practices such as hunting, gardening, and food preservation continued to be well integrated into economic and social patterns."

"Many features of traditional construction methods were preserved even though construction materials had changed through time."

"Self-sufficiency skills have survived better than other aspects of the Big South Fork folklife because they have economic utility to young and old alike."

"On the other hand, verbal expression and old-time music have become increasingly the province of the elderly…as a consequence of greater mobility and more diverse recreational opportunities for today's youth as well as the impact of mass media entertainment."

"Working against this trend, however, was the nationwide rediscovery of ethnic and regional roots, the popular groundswell that produced the Foxfire phenomenon among young people. The historic and folklife interests incorporated into development of the recreation area can only help strengthen this trend by publicly affirming the national value and significance of the Big South Fork traditional folklife."

In her introduction to the second edition of the work, published in 2003, Howell reinforces the point that the Big South Fork region still possesses distinctive cultural traditions worthy of preservation:

"Traditional knowledge and practices seemed to be thoroughly integrated into daily life. Conservation of a lively and still viable cultural system through active support and encouragement of local culture was still possible and desirable in order to honor the broad spirit of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL91-190), specifically the directive to 'preserve important historic cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage, and maintain wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity and variety of individual choice.'"

This feasibility study adopted a working hypothesis that, given the many commonalities in geography and history throughout the region, Howell's findings would apply, with some regional variations, to the entire Cumberland Plateau. This hypothesis has been subsequently reinforced by scholarly reviews of this study as well as by supportive input received from the residents during the public review phase. In addition, many of the cultural practices of the sort documented by Howell are readily observable at locations scattered throughout the corridor. For example, this study has identified a total of 65 folklife festivals in the region celebrating aspects of pioneer culture. A total of 47 old-time music venues have been identified thus far in the region, with many more likely to be discovered. Musicologist Bob Fulcher's extensive field research on the Plateau has revealed the continued existence of a strong musical heritage which he describes as being "as rich as any part of Appalachia," with outstanding family traditions of "ballet" singing and distinctive fiddle styles. Likewise, the fact that residents of many different parts of the corridor have persistently pressed for the preservation of large tracts of forest strongly suggests that their culture still places a high value on the remnants of the original frontier commons.

The existence of authentic remnants of frontier traditions makes the Cumberland Plateau both culturally distinctive and nationally important. Beginning with Frederick Jackson Turner in 1893, many historians have maintained that the distinctive national character of Americans grew out of the frontier experience. In most areas of the eastern United States, all traces of the original frontier have long since passed away, making it difficult to experience

ABOVE: A twentieth century barn built using traditional frontier-era log construction.

FACING PAGE: A traditional basket weaver demonstrates his craft at a Museum of Appalachia festival.

or fully appreciate the rich fabric of pioneer culture that shaped our nation. Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau has preserved a rare remnant of that distinctive chapter in American history. That tangible and intangible elements of the historic frontier era managed to survive there has been purely an act of chance. The Plateau's rugged geology has served to keep the local culture somewhat protected from radical change, allowing the transmission of frontier traditions and practices from one generation to the next. Continuing absentee ownership of large forest tracts has kept intact the frontier commons on which this culture has depended. In addition, the Plateau has been less affected by exploitation pressures than other parts of the Southern Appalachians. It was not as well endowed with mineral resources as the coal fields of Kentucky and West Virginia, and until very recently it was not considered as attractive for real estate development as the scenic areas of the Blue Ridge. Thus, the Plateau does indeed represent distinctive aspects of the heritage of the United States worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use. It is uniquely suited to commemorate and illustrate the broad national patterns of the original frontier experience and of our evolving relationships with the wilderness over the past 200 years.

Another important aspect of the Cumberland Plateau's distinctive culture involves the ways that residents have responded to change over the past 200 years. Prior to Howell's research, conventional wisdom held that twentieth century Appalachian culture was the product either of "distinctive values and personality traits transmitted from Euro-American, chiefly Scots-Irish, pioneers to their descendents" or of "geographic, socioeconomic, and technological isolation from the American mainstream." Neither interpretation took into account the many dynamic forces of change – ethnic immigration, railroads and the growth of towns, extractive industries and labor movements, and the massive government projects at Norris and Oak Ridge, to name a few – which in fact brought great diversity into the region. Regarding the region's responses to change, Howells states, "The history of ethnic diversity and socioeconomic change suggests that traditional culture elements still viable in the late twentieth century had persisted because they remained integral to overall cultural adaptation in the Big South Fork area, not because of isolation or ignorance that artificially preserved quaint, old-fashioned ways."

Thus, the Plateau culture's response to the forces of change, which is one of the interpretive themes for this heritage corridor project, has much to tell the nation about the evolution of our important frontier heritage. Perhaps the most critical lesson to be learned concerns the ways that traditional culture has emerged as a powerful force for conserving the integrity of natural and cultural environments. The emerging field of cultural heritage conservation has, in fact, taken much of its inspiration from Howell's landmark work and could gain from future research in the region. Thus, this heritage initiative's goal of "keeping the region's cultural traditions viable through research, education, community revitalization, and protection of the working landscape" is intended to maintain the Cumberland Plateau as a place where ethnographic research can continue to provide valuable insights for the nation.

3. OPPORTUNITIES FOR TELLING THE STORY

Federal Criteria:

- **"Resources that are important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation."**
- **"The area provides outstanding … educational opportunities."**

The chapter of this study entitled "Key Interpretive Themes and Resources," lists 179 interpretive sites, each of which is accessible to the public. All of these sites have been judged to be unspoiled examples with a high degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation of the various themes identified for the corridor. Together these resources represent an outstanding collection of educational opportunities.

Many sites in the corridor already provide outstanding interpretation programs, including most notably:

Alvin Cullom York Farm Historic District National Historic Landmark
Audubon Acres Site
Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area
Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park and Historic District
Cumberland Caverns National Natural Landmark
Cumberland Gap National Historical Park Historic District
Dunlap Coke Ovens
Fall Creek Falls State Park
Falls Mills Historic District
Fort Southwest Point
Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park
Obed National Wild and Scenic River
Rhea County Courthouse National Historic Landmark
Rugby Colony Historic District
Russell Cave National Monument
South Cumberland State Recreation Area
X-10 Reactor, Oak Ridge National Laboratory National Historic Landmark

The corridor also possesses 67 historical and cultural museums. Among these are several which clearly have national significance as unique and valuable resources relating to important individuals, events, or periods of American history:

Abraham Lincoln Museum
American Museum of Science And Energy
Cordell Hull Birthplace And Museum
Homesteads Tower Museum
Museum of Appalachia
Rhea County Courthouse Scopes Trial Museum

In addition, the Tennessee Aquarium, the only aquarium in the nation with a specific focus on the freshwater habitats and indigenous species of the Southern Appalachians, provides excellent interpretation of the region's environment to a total of 856,000 visitors annually.

Most of the other sites identified in this study are equally capable of providing outstanding interpretation of the corridor's themes if they receive the necessary support and assistance that a National Heritage Corridor designation could provide.

Campfire storytelling at the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Feasibility Criteria

It can be relatively easy to generate initial local support and enthusiasm for an NHA designation, and far more difficult to sustain a successful heritage enterprise over the long haul. The Alliance for the Cumberlands has approached this project with the goal of creating a model of an effective, sustainable heritage area. The National Park Service's feasibility and suitability criteria for National Heritage Areas have been especially helpful in defining the necessary foundation for any such model. As these criteria suggest, readiness to undertake the responsibilities of a heritage enterprise requires a high level of public support, commitments among many stakeholders to work in partnership, and a capacity for sustaining a well-managed heritage-based enterprise over the long term. Accordingly, this study has placed the highest priority on examining and documenting how well the proposed CPNHA satisfies these NPS criteria.

1. OPPORTUNITIES FOR KNITTING TOGETHER AND CONSERVING A LANDSCAPE

Federal Criterion:

- **"The area is best managed as … an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities at the local or regional level."**

This study's assessment of the Cumberland Plateau's suitability as a candidate for National Heritage Corridor designation begins by asking whether the region's natural, historical, cultural, and scenic resources are best managed individually or as a regional assemblage. As detailed in the impact assessment chapter of this study, a formal designation coupled with region-wide coordination can provide the most significant benefits in conserving and interpreting the Plateau's resources. There are three principal reasons why this approach is warranted:

1. A distinctive regional identity. As noted above under "National Significance Criteria," the Plateau is not a random collection of sites and stories but a distinctive, culturally cohesive landscape. The 21 counties of the study area share a common identity as a unique geological region and as a rare remnant of the Old Southwest frontier. In this context, the individual resources within the region are more significant when understood as parts of an intact physical and cultural fabric than as discrete entities. A focus on the region as a whole can greatly enhance existing interpretive programs. For example, the nationally important collection of pioneer buildings and artifacts at the Museum of Appalachia can reinforce understanding and appreciation of the homesteads in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. Likewise, experiencing the rugged gorge of the Tennessee River at the south end of the Plateau and the Cumberland Gap at the north end can give visitors a much deeper understanding of the great difficulties that had to be surmounted in the great migration into the Old Southwest. Such thematic connections are plentiful in the region, and they can best be developed through public/private and interagency partnerships facilitated by a National Heritage Corridor coordinating entity.

2. A history of fragmentation. The historic organization of the State of Tennessee into Three Grand Divisions has unintentionally undermined the sense of a distinctive regional identity for the Plateau. Administrative subdivisions based on this structure consistently split the region into two separate halves, each attached to a neighboring Grand Division with which it has little in common. This tendency to fragment the corridor and attach

the pieces to other regions is evident at many levels. Guidebooks to Tennessee almost invariably follow the same structure, so that the Plateau is seldom represented as a distinct region or as a destination in its own right. The Chambers of Commerce of the corridor's 21 counties have never held a region-wide meeting; one is being organized as part of this initiative. Scholars have devoted much attention to the history, culture, and built environment of East and Middle Tennessee, yet no regional history of the Plateau has been published. Likewise, the public resources of the Plateau have tended to be managed as individual units with scant attention paid to their place in the overall cultural and natural fabric of the region.

Recently this historic pattern has begun to change. The Cumberland Trail, which will connect numerous parklands and natural areas, represents the first formal attempt to link resources together. The newly enacted Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust has identified the Plateau as a region of special concern to the State and is seeking to link up adjacent public lands there to form larger contiguous blocks of forest habitat and to re-establish wildlife corridors for migrating species. These programs are a step in the right direction toward eliminating the traditional fragmentation of the region. The obvious next step is to establish a formal identity for the Cumberland Plateau as a whole, and to create a mechanism for coordinating public-private partnerships to knit the landscape and its important stories together into a coherent whole.

A rare cantilevered log barn on exhibit at the Museum of Appalachia.

3. Challenges to the region. The culture of the Plateau has remained viable largely because the forest land base which has supported it has remained relatively intact. Likewise, the existence of a globally important level of biodiversity has been possible because most of the Plateau has remained undeveloped. However, the region faces increasing challenges to its integrity from several sources. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency's 2005 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) identifies 18 "sources of stress" which are likely to cause significant effects to "Greatest Conservation Need "(GCN) species and habitats in the region. The Plan summarizes these as follows:

> "Given the preponderance of forest habitats and the large number of fauna that depend on them, incompatible forestry practices were documented as a potential source of stress. Forestry has long been a part of the history and economy of the CP&M (Cumberland Plateau and Mountains.) Forest companies have owned large tracts of land for many years. Some of the stresses associated with forest practices on terrestrial GCN species come from issues of timing and mismatching of harvest methods within key habitats. Similarly, in recent decades, some areas of the Cumberland Plateau have been converted to forest plantations of loblolly pine... As well, even though most of the CP&M is rural, development pressures are starting to afflict the large forest blocks of the region. Some areas have become increasingly popular as retirement havens. Cities such as Crossville are rapidly growing due to an increase in retirees and from the resort industry.

"Commercial and industrial development, roads, utilities, and other infrastructure related growth is also occurring as the region's population increases. One of the biggest threats to the region is the increase in land prices stemming from development. Declines in the forest industry have led some large, private forest owners to break up their landholdings and sell them as smaller parcels. Ironically, decreases in forestry in the region may lead to more severe problems for forest habitats via development.

"Another important problem linked by the planning team to terrestrial species in the region comes from activities associated with mining and drilling operations. Coal mining has been an important industry in the region since the late 1800's... In recent decades, strip mining has become the preferred method of coal extraction. Less destructive means of removing soil and rock overburden in priority areas of terrestrial habitats remains a key challenge. Similarly, construction of roads and other infrastructure necessary for access to coal mines and oil/natural gas wells can be very damaging to terrestrial habitats.

"Other key problems affecting habitats in the CP&M include: destruction of forests from outbreaks of southern pine beetle, parasites/pathogens, construction of drainage systems for wetlands, illegal collection of species, and recreational use of habitats. "

As the SWAP was being published, corporate timber companies began to sell their land on the Plateau, and adverse forms of development emerged as an area of special concern. The 2005 announcement by Bowater Inc. that the company plans to sell approximately 100,000 acres on the Plateau is a recent example of large tracts of forest land coming on the market for the first time. At the same time, the region's great scenic beauty has begun to attract real estate development on a far greater scale than in the past. If much of the corporate acreage should become subdivided, the fabric of the Plateau's distinctive way of life as well as its pristine ecosystem could be significantly impaired. These corporate lands are scattered across all the Plateau's counties, and therefore the challenges to the Plateau's traditions and resources are regional and require regional solutions. Designating the Plateau as a National Heritage Corridor with programs and resources coordinated on a regional scale through public-private partnerships will be the best way help the residents address these growing pressures. Likewise, the sense of distinct regional identity generated by a National Heritage Corridor would help local communities add value and meaning to their cultural heritage, making them better able to deal with the impacts of change.

Establishment of a Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor would also provide a unique opportunity to reestablish wildlife corridors to maintain and enhance the migration patterns of such large mammals as white-tailed deer, black bear, and recently reintroduced elk. As a consequence of the preservation of these "keystone" species and their migration corridors, smaller mammals and even native plants, whose seeds are carried by migrating animals, will also be able to maintain healthier populations through dispersal over their former ranges on the Plateau.

For these reasons, the region presents both valuable opportunities and significant challenges. The national importance of the region as a whole warrants a well-coordinated regional partnership to ensure its preservation and interpretation to the public.

Among the residents of the Cumberland Plateau corridor, there is a frequently expressed fear that their homeland could soon experience the same negative impacts of land fragmentation and sprawling development that have occurred in the rural areas of Middle

and East Tennessee. There is a strong sense among these residents that something must be done now, before the character of the Plateau is changed permanently. This desire to protect the region before it is too late has been the driving force behind this heritage corridor initiative.

Fortunately, it is not too late. The Cumberland Plateau remains largely undeveloped, with its natural and cultural fabric intact. The large forest commons which has supported the region's frontier traditions still exists, and these forests have retained their original soil structure and natural succession. The level of species diversity within the corridor reamains exceptionally high. The region's 594,000 acres of permanently protected public lands represent an important anchor for future conservation efforts. Thus the Plateau represents a rare opportunity to preserve significant natural resources as well as the region's distinctive cultural traditions.

Federal Criterion:

- **"The area provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historical, cultural, or scenic features."**

This study has identified a total of 97 separate organizations or programs currently working to conserve the Plateau's outstanding natural, historical and cultural resources. In addition, Federal and State governments have made and continue to make significant investments in conservation in the region, in recognition of its exceptional qualities. Currently these many programs pursue their separate missions with very little coordination. This heritage corridor initiative will greatly improve their effectiveness by establishing working partnerships among related efforts and by coordinating them through a broad-based stakeholder entity and a regional heritage corridor management plan.

NATURAL RESOURCE INITIATIVES:

Federal Agency Programs:

The National Park Service has purchased a over 75,000 acres for **five National Park units** in the corridor. These units are engaged in ongoing resource conservation and interpretation projects.

In addition, a total of $26.4 million in grants from the **Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Local Parks and Recreation Fund, and the Recreational Trails Program** have been invested in State and local projects in the Plateau corridor counties.

The U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program has invested approximately $12 million in Federal funds to purchase lands or conservation easements on the Plateau.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintains a field office in the corridor which is engaged in ongoing programs to protect the region's nationally significant species diversity.

TheTennessee Valley Authority and the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** pursue ongoing natural resource conservation missions in the corridor, both on the lands they manage and in related watersheds.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service supports five Resource Conservation and Development Councils in the corridor with ongoing programs to protect, develop and manage the area's natural resources and enhance the quality of life of the people of the area through leadership, education, volunteerism and action. Their projects include support for eco-tourism and heritage tourism projects. These organizations include the **Cumberland Mountain RC&D Council, the Hull-York Lakeland RC&D Council, the Southeast Tennessee RC&D**

The Cumberland Plateau Elk Range encompasses a sizeable area which includes several northern Plateau counties as well as parts of Kentucky.

Council, the Southern Middle Tennessee RC&D Council, and **the Clinch-Powell RC&D Council.**

State Agency Programs:

Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust. The *2003-2008 Tennessee State Recreation Plan* proposed a comprehensive statewide program for the acquisition of recreation lands. In 2005 Governor Bredesen proposed and the legislature approved new funding to implement this proposal. The legislation established the nonprofit Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust to facilitate land acquisitions, donations of easements, fundraising and other activities pursuant to this initiative. The initial program funding of $10 million has been targeted on the Cumberland Plateau, with an additional $10 million proposed for FY 2007. The executive summary of this program's first report, *The Cumberland Plateau, Tennessee Heritage Conservation Needs Assessment, A Preliminary Report,* June, 2005, states:

"The Cumberland Plateau has been recognized as having global significance relative to rare and imperiled species of wildlife and plants. The report identifies almost 70 significant projects on the Cumberland Plateau. Within the "Areas of Interest" are more than 930,000 acres with approximately 316,000 of that being in some type of protected status (excluding federal lands). A minimum of 545,000 acres needs to be protected. The cost to protect these additional areas is estimated at almost $300,000 million."

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. The States of Tennessee and Kentucky are developing a multi-species, ecosystem-focused **Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)** in the Cumberlands to conserve aquatic and terrestrial species and the habitats and ecosystems on which they depend. The plan seeks constructive solutions that are driven by the private sector to protect over 80 rare species while allowing authorized activities such as mining, forestry and water supply to proceed. This initiative is

ABOVE: A nineteenth century water-powered grist mill at Norris Dam State Park.

BELOW: A traditional split rail cedar fence at the Museum of Appalachia.

identifying sensitive species and habitats and fostering partnerships with landowners, companies and local governments to implement conservation measures to minimize and mitigate impacts to rare species.

In 2005, TWRA completed a **State Wildlife Action Plan** (**SWAP**), which identifies important habitats and wildlife resources of the Plateau and recommends strategies for conservation. This plan has identified terrestrial, aquatic, and subterranean species in the Cumberland Plateau corridor which are of special concern, as well as the critical habitat types which support these species and the threats to these habitats. This plan's concrete conservation priorities for the Cumberland Plateau region will serve as the conservation agenda for the Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor.

The Tennessee Department of Conservation has several active conservation projects ongoing in the region.

The **Recreation Educational Services Division** administers technical, planning and financial assistance services to state, local and private providers of public recreation and encourages the development of recreation systems and greenways and trails.

The Division of Natural Heritage pursues conservation, restoration and management of biodiversity through technical assistance and educational programs for governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, industrial and other private landowners, and educational institutions.

The Tennessee Historical Commission has many programs that relate to the region's history and to preservation of its historic sites

T**he Division of Archaeology** has programs to identify and preserve important archaeological sites in the region.

The agency also facilitates implementation of the ***Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan,*** which seeks to establish greenway conservation corridors that protect wildlife habitat and migration patterns as well as providing key recreational opportunities.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture provides technical assistance to promote best practices in farming and timber management in all the Cumberland Plateau counties. The department's **Division of Forestry** maintains experimental forest research programs at Franklin, Prentice Cooper, Bledsoe, and Standing Stone, Pickett, and Scott State Forests.

The University of Tennessee Extension, an off-campus division of the UT Institute of Agriculture, is a statewide educational organization funded by federal, state and local governments. The Extension brings research-based information about agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and resource development to local residents through county Extension agents in each of the corridor's 21 counties.

The University of Tennessee Forestry Experiment Station conducts research programs that demonstrate the application of optimal forest and wildlife management technologies and assist with transfer of new technology to forest land owners and industries. This program maintains two experimental forests, in the Cumberland Plateau corridor: **the Cumberland Forest** and **the Highland Rim Forest.**

The Center for Profitable Agriculture, a joint project of the University of Tennessee Extension and the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation, provides technical assistance to farmers in the area to help reinforce their economic viability. Their projects include support for agri-tourism and forestry enterprises.

NGO Organizations and Programs:

The Tennessee Chapter of the Nature Conservancy has developed an ecoregion plan for the Ridge and Valley and Cumberland Plateau and Mountain region. This plan identifies priority areas for conservation of important communities, rare and endangered species, and critical habitats. The Conservancy is implementing multiple conservation strategies on the Cumberland Plateau, including recently acquiring more than 25,000 acres of wild lands that have been transferred to public ownership.

The University of the South's Landscape Analysis Lab applies GIS technology to study land use changes on the southern Plateau, promoting the goals of environmental education and conserrvation science.

In 2005 this program conducted a series of workshops entitled "**Envisioning the Future of the Cumberland Plateau: Land Use Change and Public Policy.**" The process convened numerous public officials, academics, and residents, and the input received has been used to develop a regional action plan.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is pursuing a conservation plan to protect and restore elk country on the northern Cumberland Plateau through partnerships with government agencies, conservation groups, landowners, hunters, and the mining, timber, agriculture and tourism industries. Their approach embraces the traditional land uses that have shaped the character of the region for centuries.

Five Watershed Associations have focused planning efforts on the watersheds in the Plateau region and are working closely with residents to pursue conservation goals. These include the **Big South Fork Watershed Association, the Emory River Watershed Association, the Obed Watershed Community Association, the Caney Fork Watershed Association,** and the **Coal Creek Watershed Foundation.**

Three land trusts are active in acquiring conservation easements the area. These include **the Land Trust for Tennessee, the Lookout Mountain Land Trust,** and **the South Cumberland Regional Land Trust.**

The Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation works on an ongoing basis to acquire and protect important tracts in the corridor. One of their long-term major goals is to connect protected land between Fall Creek Falls, Bledsoe State Forest and Scott's Gulf, creating a preserve of more than 40,000 acres.

The Tennessee River Gorge Trust has programs to protect the ecological diversity, scenic beauty and historic past of this nationally significant river canyon, which contains more than a thousand varieties of plants and trees as well as many rare or endangered species. Through their efforts approximately 16,344 of the 27,000 acres in the Gorge are now protected, including dozens of archaeological sites bearing evidence of man's presence in the Gorge for at least 10,000 years.

The North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy provides a framework for citizen involvement and support in conserving the significant natural, historic, and cultural resources located within and near the watershed of the North Chickamauga Creek State Natural Area.

Alum Cove Wilderness Center, located near Sequatchie, Tennessee, provides outdoor learning experiences to the public, especially children. Parts of the property have been logged by the owner, who is a professional logger.

Several Friends groups are actively engaged in ongoing conservation-related efforts

targeting individual Federal and State parks and their surrounding areas. These groups include:

The Cumberland Trail Conference, which is the driving force behind the ongoing construction of the Cumberland Trail.

Friends of the Big South Fork, which has built a visitor center for the park and has plans underway to install a state-of-the-art computerized virtual tour program.

Friends of Cove Lake

Friends of Cumberland Mountain

Friends of Fall Creek Falls

Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park

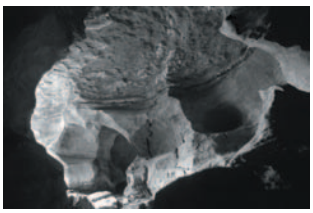
Friends of Norris Dam

Friends of Scots Gulf

Friends of South Cumberland State Recreation Area

Friends of Standing Stone

Friends of Cordell Hull Birthplace



ABOVE: The mouth of Jim's Cave, showing the sculptural erosion of the limestone which is typical of caves found in the base of the Cumberland Plateau.

The Southeast Regional Association of the National Speleological Society is engaged in conservation efforts for the cave habitats in the corrridor as well as a comprehensive survey to identify and map the region's many caves.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL INITIATIVES:

Four Development Districts of the Plateau - the **East Tennessee Development District, the Southeast Tennessee Development District,** and **the Upper Cumberland Development District** - all have historic preservation professionals on staff who are working on an ongoing basis to document resources and assist local governments and entities in preserving historic and cultural resources.

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development's Three-Star Program includes a Main Street component which assists local governments and organizations in preservation and revitalization of historic downtowns and other historic assets.

The Tennessee Arts Commission administers two grants programs which support the cultural goals of this heritage initiative. **The Cultural Crossroads Program** funds projects and public programs that include the arts and humanities and work toward balancing local cultural values with tourism interests. **The Rural Arts Project Support Program** provides funds for quality arts projects and programs conducted by organizations located in rural areas. The program also serves as a clearinghouse of resources and information on folklife subjects.

The Tennessee Community History Program of Humanities Tennessee provides technical support in the region for community-based educational programs about the history and cultural life of Tennessee communities. The program includes the **Tennessee Community History Network**, a clearinghouse for exchange of information and resources among historical and cultural organizations; and the **Community History Development Fund,** which provides grants to emerging history and cultural institutions for developing long-term growth and sustainability.

The University of Tennessee Department of Anthropology's American Studies Program conducts ongoing research in Appalachian historical ethnography, in which students conduct oral history interviews and use various historical documents to explore Appalachian lifeways from the 1870s to the recent past. Current research focuses on the Cumberland Plateau - its cultural heritage, ethnic diversity and industrial history. Student projects contribute to local history and heritage tourism efforts by ap-

BELOW: Shakerag, a mining town in the Tennessee River gorge. The site has received new attention since being listed on the Tennessee Preservation Trust's "Ten in Tennessee" list of most endangered historic places.

preciation of sites along the Cumberlands Heritage Trail.

Tennessee Technological University's Upper Cumberland Institute maintains an ongoing program to document and preserve historic and cultural sites in the northwestern counties of the Plateau.

The Tennessee Preservation Trust works as an advocate for the protection of the region's historic buildings and sites and helps local citizens strategize about saving threatened properties. Important sites in the Plateau corridor have been featured on the organization's yearly "Ten in Tennessee" list of the state's most endangered historic places.

The Center for Rural Life at the University of the South is documenting the cultural values and lifeways of residents in the southern Plateau counties.

The Tennessee Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association is working to preserve and interpret sites along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

A total of 33 county historical associations and local history museums in the Plateau counties are developing and maintaining collections and documentation relating to local history and culture.

The Centennial Farms Program at the Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University documents farms in the region which have been worked by the same family for 100 years or longer.

The Borderlands Project is engaged in preserving, developing and interpreting the history and culture of the northwestern counties of the corridor.

These programs and entities represent the elements of a strong conservation infrastructure. Currently they exist as a patchwork of largely unrelated efforts, and this heritage corridor initiative is designed to establish a mechanism for coordinating and supporting these and other programs through active partnerships. Many of these entities have participated in the planning for this study and have expressed a commitment to working together in partnership under the umbrella of a National Heritage Corridor designation. As a first step, the Alliance for the Cumberlands is developing a comprehensive inventory of all plans and programs relating to the Cumberland Plateau Region in Kentucky and Tennessee. This inventory includes conservation plans, historic preservation plans, and recreation plans. The purpose is to achieve an overall view of the goals for the region, identify gaps, and coordinate the implementation of strategies.

The Alliance has also entered into productive dialogues aimed at establishing a **Cumberland Plateau Institute** in partnership with with t**he University of Tennessee**, **Tennessee Technology University, the University of the South,** and **the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University.** The purpose of this institute will be to coordinate and leverage many existing programs and provide technical assistance and public education in support of the goals of the heritage corridor. This proposal is based on the highly successful model of the Quinebaug and Shetucket National Heritage Corridor's Green Valley Institute at the University of Connecticut.

The outstanding opportunities for conservation in the Plateau region have been highlighted in a study published by the Open Space Institute ("Southern Appalachian Conservation Assessment", September, 2004), which states that the Cumberland Plateau "is perhaps the one place in this subregion (of the Southern Appalachians) where the opportunity for dramatic conservation successes is greatest."

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT

Federal Criterion:

- **"Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments (including relevant Federal land management agencies) within the proposed area are involved in the planning and have demonstrated significant support through letters and other means for National Heritage Area designation and management."**

Commissioner Jim Fyke of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation describes the heritage corridor initiative to a crowd of over 100 at Cumberland Moutain State Park.

Local stakeholders have had extensive participation in the planning process of this heritage corridor initiative. From the outset, this has been a grassroots process with a strong sense of ownership among the residents of the region.

As noted above in regards to the challenges now facing the Plateau, the residents are deeply concerned about the future of their homeland. The sense of a community under stress is evident at all levels, from small landowners to county mayors. The opinion most often expressed about the heritage corridor has been a strong commitment to the initiative as the best means of defending the region's traditions and resources in the face of daunting development pressures.

Initial public workshops were held in Monteagle, Crossville, and Huntsville to present an overview of the proposed heritage corridor initiative's goals and scope and to receive public comments and suggestions. These meetings attracted a total of 52 participants representing landowners, non-profit organizations, business interests, local government officials, and universities. Nearly all comments received at these meetings were strongly supportive, except for two specific concerns noted below. Many participants expressed a desire to see the heritage corridor initiative move forward immediately.

Also during this first phase, four leadership forums were also held at Monteagle, Chattanooga, Crossville, and Norris. These meetings, sponsored by the region's development districts, were designed to engage local leaders early on in the planning process. The total of 53 attendees represented a cross-section of the region's stakeholder leadership: local business managers; county mayors; Chamber of Commerce and CVB executives; foundation managers; and leaders of organizations representing farm, forestry, and conservation interests. These participants expressed strong support for the initiative and a desire to move forward with the planning phase as quickly as possible.

The Alliance for the Cumberlands held six quarterly meetings during the planning process, offering further opportunities for public participation. These meetings were attended by a total of 219 individuals representing government agencies, non-profit organizations, and landowners. The Alliance's Annual Conference in February, 2006, which was attended by 120 individuals representing 57 agencies and organizations, featured a keynote presentation on heritage corridor planning by Carroll Van West of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

During the draft review phase of this planning process, three more public workshops were held at Huntsville, Monteagle, and Crossville. These meetings attracted a total of 42 participants, who received a presentation of the findings of this study and provided suggestions and comments.

In addition to these public meetings, the Alliance for the Cumberlands met with leaders of key groups throughout the region. These included:

The leadership of the Tennessee Farm Bureau and the Tennessee Forestry Association,
All 21 county mayors in the corridor,
Chamber of Commerce executives, and
16 civic associations and community groups.

Articles describing the heritage corridor initiative and inviting public participation

appeared in the local weekly papers in Scott, White, Van Buren, Franklin, and Cumberland Counties; in the wide-circulation dailies of Knoxville, Nashville, Chattanooga, Cookeville, and Oak Ridge; and in the Upper Cumberland Business Journal.

Two Concerns

During all these meetings and contacts, two specific concerns about the initiative were expressed by a small number participants. The foremost of these related to property rights. There was a concern expressed that a National Heritage Corridor designation might entail condemnation of private property or new regulation of land uses. As noted in this study, the Plateau culture reflects a long history of resentment toward condemnation of land, dating from the significant displacement of homesteaders by the Tennessee Valley Authority during the New Deal era. Likewise, the frontier traditions of independence and freedom tend to be hostile to government interventions in the uses of private land. In nearly all cases, the participants, including representatives of farmer and timber grower organizations, were relieved and satisfied to learn that the draft Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor draft designation bill contains the following clause:

> SEC. 9. PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.
>
> **(a) Access to Private Property**- Nothing in this title shall be construed to require any private property owner to allow public access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to such private property.
>
> **(b) Liability-** Designation of the Heritage Corridor shall not be considered to create any liability, or to have any effect on any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any persons injured on such private property.
>
> **(c) Authority to Control Land Use-** Nothing in this title shall be construed to modify, enlarge, or diminish the authority of Federal, State, or local governments to regulate land use.
>
> **(d) Participation of Private Property Owners in Heritage Corridor-** Nothing in this title shall be construed to require the owner of any private property located within the boundaries of the Heritage Corridor to participate in or be associated with the Heritage Corridor.
>
> **(e) Effect of Establishment-** The boundaries designated for the Heritage Corridor represent the area within which Federal funds appropriated for the purpose of this title may be expended. The establishment of the Heritage Corridor and its boundaries shall not be construed to provide any nonexisting regulatory authority on land use within the Heritage Corridor or its viewshed by the Secretary, the National Park Service, or the management entity.
>
> **(f) Condemnation of Private Property-** Nothing in this title shall be construed to grant to the management entity the power of eminent domain.

The second concern expressed at these meetings involved possible negative impacts of increased development if the heritage corridor initiative were to attract large numbers of visitors. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park gateway cities of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge were cited as examples of the impacts of excess visitation pressures. In further discussion there was general agreement that the region is sufficiently large and automobile-accessible that increased visitation will be spread over a wide area, whereas Gatlinburg has suffered from a concentration of impacts caused by being the gateway to a virtual wilderness. In addition, the overwhelming opinion of the participants was that the potential conservation benefits of a heritage corridor would far outweigh any adverse impacts from increased visitation.

Potential negative impacts are discussed in greater detail in Chapter 6, pages 104-118

3. COORDINATING ENTITY

Federal Criterion:

- **"The local coordinating entity responsible for preparing and implementing the management plan is identified."**

The Alliance for the Cumberlands, a regional non-profit umbrella organization with wide stakeholder representation, is the local coordinating entity for the initial phase of this project. The contact for this organization is:

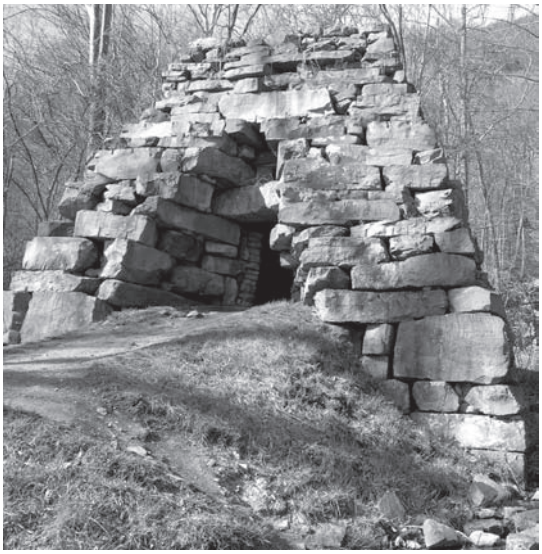
Katherine G. Medlock
Executive Director
Alliance for the Cumberlands
706 Walnut Street, Suite 200
Knoxville, TN 37902
(865) 546-5998
Kmedlock@TNC.org
http://www.allianceforthecumberlands.org/

The Alliance has initiated this project with the expressed intention of forming a new entity which will have responsibility for developing and implementing a management plan for the proposed National Heritage Corridor. During the development of this feasibility study, the Alliance used the stakeholder consultation meetings to gather suggestions about the kind of organization that would best represent the diverse interests of the region, including governments, natural and historic resource protection organizations, educational institutions, businesses, recreational organizations, community residents, and private property owners. It was hoped that the leadership forums would serve to initiate organization of this coordinating entity. Surprisingly, the participants at these forums were so committed to the heritage corridor concept that they moved immediately into very concrete and productive discussions about the nuts and bolts of an organization.

In addition, research was undertaken to discover which kinds of entities have been most successful for existing NHAs and which might best apply to the situation in Tennessee. The Cumberland Plateau corridor would be one of the largest NHAs, covering a total of 22,912 square miles and encompassing 21 counties. Accordingly, the Essex NHA in Connecticut, with a 180-member Commission and a 10-member Board of Trustees, was identified as a good model for this project because it provides for the most diverse range of stakeholder representation.

RIGHT: Dancing to an old-time string band at a Museum of Appalachia festival.

FACING PAGE: An early iron furnace at Cumberland Gap.



The Alliance for the Cumberlands applied the results of this research and the input from the leadership forums to draft a proposed structure of the coordinating entity for the Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor. As currently under consideration, this entity will receive guidance from a regional commission which includes *ex officio* representatives of each of the corridor's counties, of each Federal and State partnering agency, and of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. This commission will also include rotating seats for conservation and historic preservation organizations, museums and other local interpretive sites, regional tourism entities, the region's three development districts, the chambers of commerce, timber and farm organizations, and general residents.

As with the Essex NHA, this diversity of representation will require a commission of approximately 100 members. From this commission will be selected a Board of Trustees, which will meet quarterly and delegate operational oversight to an Executive Committee. It is felt that this structure will offfer the best balance between broad, local grassroots participation and executive management efficiency. The Alliance for the Cumberlands is continuing to serve as the local coordinating entity for the heritage corridor during the organization of this new entity.

4. PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENTS

Federal Criterion:

- **"The proposed local coordinating entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing and have documented a significant commitment to work in partnership to protect, enhance, interpret, fund, manage, and develop resources within the National Heritage Area."**

This heritage corridor initiative has been developed from the beginning as a vehicle to facilitate and encourage partnerships and cooperation among government entities across jurisdictional lines. A strong emphasis on such partnerships has been considered essential to counter the history of fragmentation of programs and entities in the Cumberland Plateau corridor. Accordingly, the local coordinating entity proposed for the corridor has been structured to foster strong partnership commitments among all the related government agencies. The organization's proposed governing commission includes *ex officio* seats for every Federal and State agency, and every county government in the project area. These partnering agencies include:

National Park Service (Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Obed National Wild and Scenic River, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park)

Tennessee Department of Agriculture (State Forests)

Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (Three-Star and Main Street Programs)

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (State Parks, Recreation Educational Services, Historical Commission, Division of Archaeology)

Tennessee Department of Transportation

Clinch River valley, site of important early pioneer settlements. This river remains one of the most pristine and biologically diverse in the Southern Appalachains.

Tennessee Department of Tourist Development
Tennessee Valley Authority (reservoirs)
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (Wildlife Management Areas)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (endangered species)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (reservoirs)
U.S. Forest Service (Forest Legacy Program)
21 County Governments

The Governor of Tennessee has offered the support of all agencies of state government in this effort. Three departments, Environment and Conservation, Transportation, and Wildlife Resources, have demonstrated their commitments by funding this Feasibility Study. The Allliance has received letters of support from the superintendents of the National Park Service units within the corridor and from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, TVA, and the U.S. Forest Service. In addition, 12 of the corridor's county commissions have thus far passed resolutions of partnership and support for the corridor project.

A list of supporting partners is presented in Appendix 2, pages 128-129.

5. CONCEPTUAL FINANCIAL PLAN

Federal Criterion:

- **"The proposed local coordinating entity has developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants (including the Federal Government) in the management of the National Heritage Area."**

For guidance in developing a conceptual financial plan for the proposed Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor, the Alliance for the Cumberlands has received helpful advice from the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, and the Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association.

An important goal adopted by the Alliance for the Cumberlands for this heritage initiative is: "To establish a cost-effective mechanism to preserve nationally important natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources through working partnerships among Federal, State and local entities." This goal places an emphasis on making the most of what already exists. As noted above under "Opportunities for Knitting Together and Preserving the Landscape," much can be accomplished simply by reversing the traditional fragmentation of the region and by coordinating and leveraging the many current programs of the Federal, State and local governments and of non-profit organizations in the region.

Thus, the conceptual financial plan for the proposed Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor is designed with a priority on partnerships and in-kind assistance rather than capital-intensive projects. It is anticipated, for example, that much of the local match can be accomplished by refocusing resources of existing activities and programs of the Departments of Agriculture, Economic and Community Development, Environment and Conservation, and Tourism, Transportation, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and

the University of Tennessee Extension. All of these agencies have field personnel in the region pursuing objectives which mesh well with the goals of this initiative.

Likewise, this heritage corridor will seek to maximize technical assistance from Federal agencies. Especially critical will be partnerships with the National Park Service to involve the expert staff at five National Park units within the region; at the regional office of the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program; and at the National Trails System. Other Federal technical assistance will be pursued from the following sources:

Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA
- Agritourism and Alternative Enterprises
- Resource Conservation and Development Program

Rural Development, USDA
- Rural Business Enterprise Grants
- Rural Business Opportunity Grants
- Rural Economic Development Grants and Loans.

Federal Highway Administration, USDOT
- National Scenic Byways Program
- Recreational Trails Program Grants
- Transportation and Transit Enhancements Programs

The local government and business share is kept at a modest level at this initial stage, recognizing that many of the corridor's counties are economically distressed and unable to devote significant amounts to non-essential projects. It is anticipated that tangible results from this initiative over time will spur greater investment at the local level. On the other hand, grants to local sites and entities are set at a relatively high level to incentivize local grassroots commitment and participation.

Conceptual Financial Plan

	Revenues	Expenditures
NPS NHA Funding	800,000	
Local Match:		
State (including in-kind)	300,000	
Local govts. and businesses	200,000	
Regranting Matches	250,000	
Foundations	100,000	
Total Annual Revenues	**1,650,000**	
Operations (staff, office, equip.)		175,000
Regranting		250,000
Marketing		150,000
Special Projects		100,000
Visitor center exhibits		200,000
Training		100,000
Signage		200,000
Management Plan (first three years)		100,000
Total Annual Expenditures		**1,275,000**

6. ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Federal Criterion:

- **"The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity within the area."**

One of the formal goals adopted by the Alliance for the Cumberlands for this heritage initiative is: "To enhance economic opportunity in the region through sensitive, sustainable heritage-based and nature-based tourism and through support for traditional uses of the land." Critical to the preservation of the traditional culture and natural environment of the region is maintaining the productive working landscape of farmers and timber growers. Accordingly, this study has identified several measures which the Alliance for the Cumberlands will promote to help landowners stay on their lands, including:

- Increased State involvement in recruiting new hardwood products manufacturing in the region;
- Technical assistance to advise landowners in forming timber cooperatives to add value to timber resources;
- A State certification and branding process for sustainably grown Tennessee hardwoods; and
- Technical assistance to help farmers benefit from increasing Agri-Tourism and value added opportunities.

Constructive dialogues have already begun with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture and the University of Tennessee Extension to implement these measures.

Other impacts of National Heritage Corridor designation on economic activity in the region will concern tourism-related businesses. Increased awareness of the Cumberland Plateau as an attractive destination is likely to improve revenues for the food and beverage, retail, and lodging sectors. In addition, increased visitation to the region will improve the business climate for small business start-ups, such as bed and breakfast enterprises.

In addition, the prohibitions against the power of eminent domain and against new land use regulations which are contained in the Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor draft designation bill preclude the heritage corridor's having any impact on continued economic activity relating to the Plateau's land and natural resources, which are the region's primary economic assets. Thus, this study has concluded that National Heritage Corridor designation would have no negative impact of on continued economic activity within the region.

ABOVE: A cove farm at the base of the Plateau.

FACING PAGE LEFT: A Victorian-era Mayday celebration at Rugby.

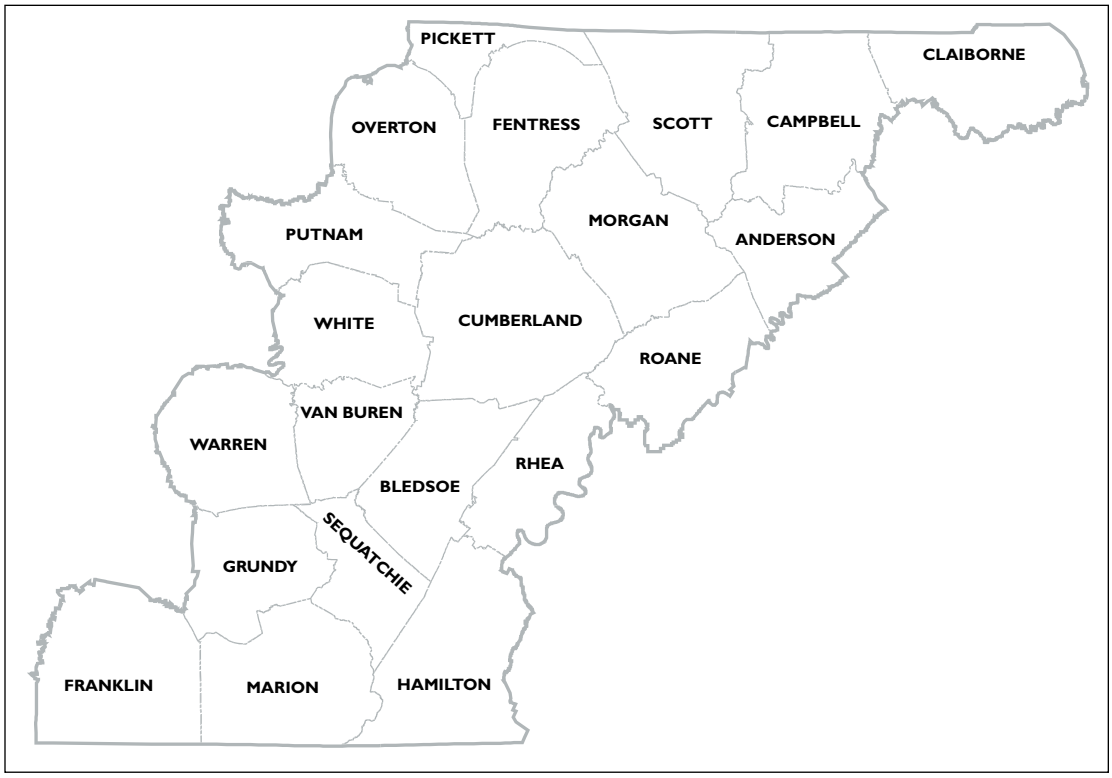
RIGHT: A traditional woodcarver demonstrates the use of the drawknife at the Museum of Appalchia.

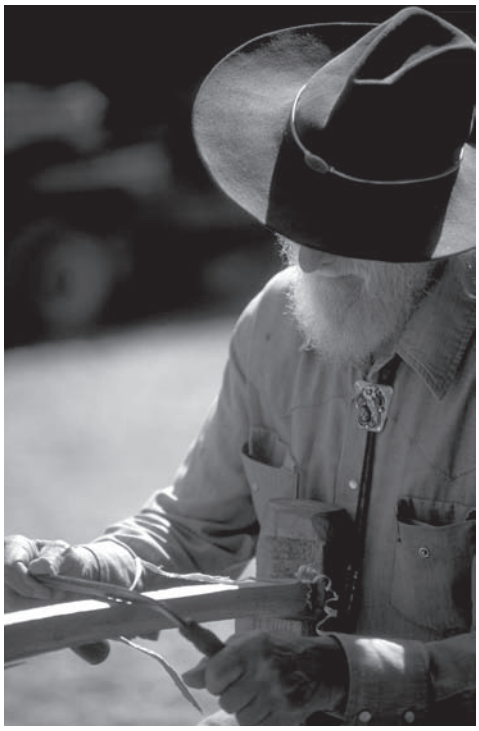
7. BOUNDARY MAP

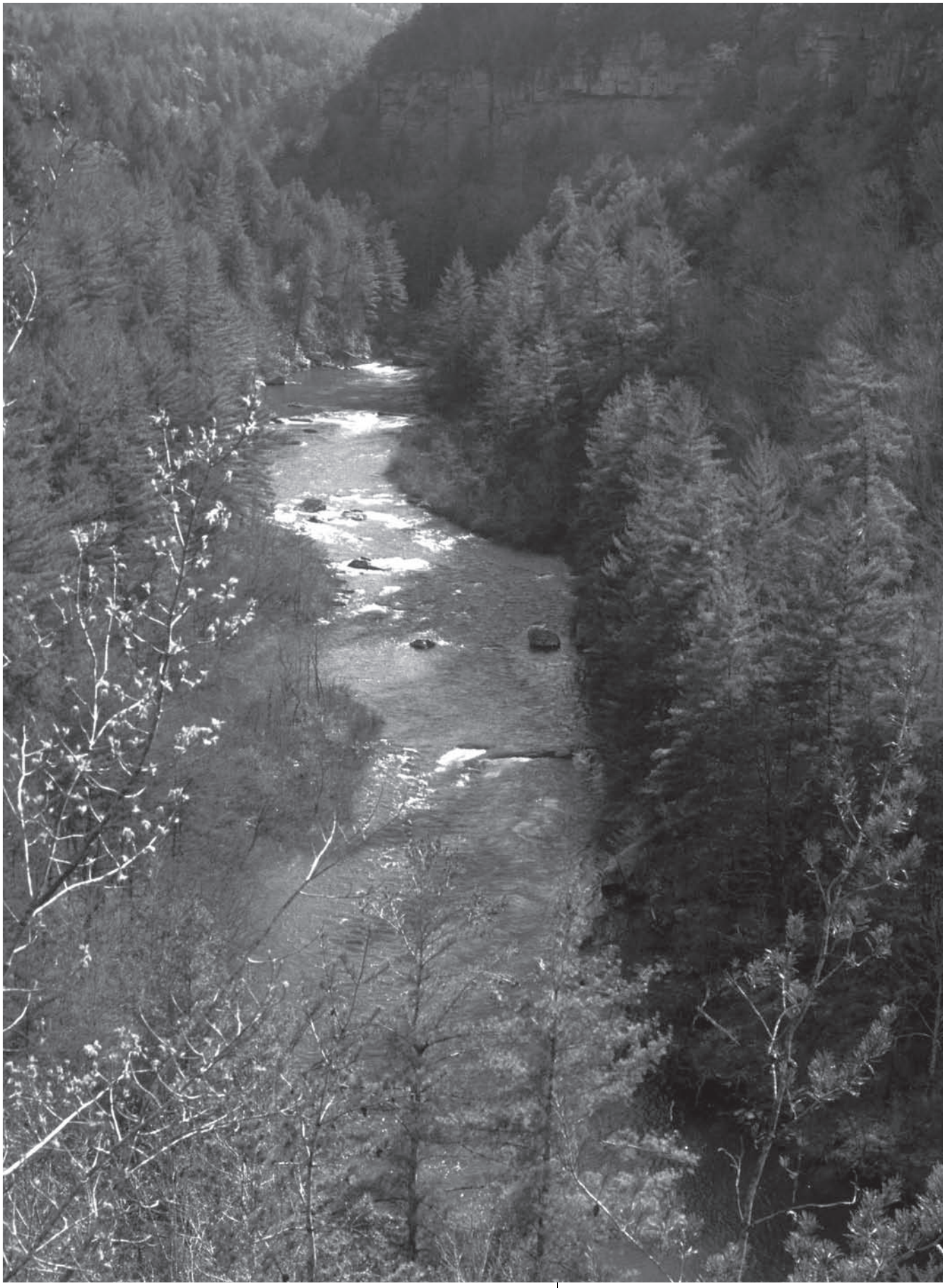
Federal Criterion:

- **"A conceptual boundary map has been developed and is supported by the public and participating Federal agencies."**

A map showing the boundaries of the proposed Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor has been displayed and described at all public meetings convened for this study and in literature that has been widely circulated in the region. These boundaries have been approved by the public without a single reservation, as well as by the project's Federal agency partners.







Obed National Wild and Scenic River.

CHAPTER 6: ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES AND IMPACTS

This study has assessed four alternative approaches for achieving the goals of the heritage corridor initiative:

1. Continuation of current practices,
2. A privately organized heritage corridor,
3. State Heritage Corridor designation, and
4. National Heritage Corridor designation.

Each of these has been explored in terms of its ability to achieve the following goals of this heritage corridor initiative:

- To promote a stewardship vision for the region that places history, culture and nature in the context of a distinctive, nationally significant regional identity.
- To keep the region's cultural traditions viable through research, education, community revitalization, and protection of the working landscape.
- To maintain the region's globally important biodiversity through protection of unique and critical habitats, including rivers and streams, caves, and large tracts of native forest.
- To preserve, restore and interpret the region's many important historical and archaeological sites.
- To increase public awareness and enjoyment of the region's outstanding scenic beauty and recreational opportunities.
- To enhance economic opportunity in the region through sensitive, sustainable ecotourism and heritage-based tourism and through support for traditional uses of the land.
- To establish a cost-effective mechanism to preserve nationally important natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources through working partnerships among Federal, State and local entities.

This chapter describes each of the management alternatives and considers the impacts which National Heritage Corridor designation would potentially have on important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage; and on aspects of the human environment, as specified in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. If the Cumberland Plateau should receive Federal designation as a National Heritage Corridor, specific implementation activities, to be detailed in a management plan, could have some additional impacts which cannot be anticipated at this time.

DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATIVES

Each of the following alternatives has been assessed as objectively as possible with this heritage corridor initiative's goals in mind. These goals are entirely consistent with the national policy established in NEPA. Benita Howell makes the following point in regards to the environmental impacts of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area: "Conservation of a lively and still viable cultural system through active support and encouragement of local culture was still possible and desirable in order to honor the broad spirit of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969."

The primary negative impacts which have been identified among the following alternatives are those associated with a lack of efficacy in implementing this national policy. Thus, the critical question of this discussion is: which alternative is most likely to achieve the stated goals of this initiative?

1: Continuation of Current Practices

The baseline for this analysis is the current state of heritage development and conservation in the corridor. Chapter 5 summarizes the many individual programs already in place to pursue various heritage goals within the corridor. These programs represent excellent opportunities for conserving specific parts of the landscape and its cultural fabric. However, these programs are currently fragmented among a wide array of Federal and State agencies, state and national non-profit organizations, county and municipal governments, and local organizations. They are focussed on individual subregions or localities of the Plateau with very little coordination across jurisdictional boundaries. There is currently no entity which addresses the whole Plateau as a single geographical and cultural unit and considers the specific needs and resources of the region as distinct from the adjoining areas.

A major factor contributing to fragmentation of programs in the corridor is the scheme under which the state has been historically subdivided into what are termed "Three Grand Divisions." This geographical conception dates to 1835, when State law first established Eastern, Middle, and Western Divisions of the state, reflecting its three population centers. The Plateau, then simply referred to as "the Wilderness," was not considered important enough to warrant its own separate division. This conception became entrenched when the state flag was designed with three stars to represent the three divisions. Accordingly, all of the State's agencies, regional organizations, etc. have been administratively structured into these divisions, with some of the Plateau's counties arbitrarily assigned to the Eastern division, others to the Middle. As a result, the very existence of the Cumberland Plateau as a distinct region has long been overlooked, preventing much meaningful coordination of agencies and programs at the regional level. It may be said that this accident of history has created the primary need for a formal initiative to pull the whole region together as a single unit.

Various existing programs do encourage cooperation across county and regional lines, yet these all lack one essential component: a single, well-defined enterprise with clearly stated goals which can incentivize and facilitate region-wide coordination and cooperation. Without a specific initiative aimed at shared goals and well-defined objectives, the laudable principles of regional partnership and cooperation tend to be relegated to the back burner. Likewise, without a single entity to provide comprehensive planning and function as an information clearinghouse, there is no formal mechanism to ensure coordination of literally scores of programs scattered all across the corridor. In addition, with 90% of the Plateau's acreage in private ownership, any effective protection and interpretation of the region's important natural and cultural resources must address the economic and cultural needs of individual landowners at the landscape level. This panoramic perspective can occur only if it is built into the mission of a dedicated organization.

Thus, this study concludes that the alternative of continuing current practices cannot achieve the goal of protecting and interpreting the Cumberland Plateau's nationally important natural, historical, and cultural resources. This piecemeal approach can succeed in conserving individual components, but the essential fabric of the region's heritage and its related larger landscape cannot be effectively protected without some form of region-wide entity. Given the immediate prospect of increasing development pressures on the Plateau region's rich culture and its outstanding heritage resources, the negative impacts of this alternative can be considered unacceptable.

2: Privately Organized Heritage Corridor

One alternative is management by a private, not-for-profit entity, similar to the Alliance for the Cumberlands, with a specific focus on regional heritage development and preservation. To a limited degree, such an organization could serve most of the functions of a National Heritage Area management entity, providing centralized coordination, planning, marketing, and information dissemination. It could increase awareness of the region as a destination for heritage tourism, to the extent possible given its resources. Possible models for such an entity could be the regional host organizations in western North Carolina.

Four fundamental difficulties are inherent in this approach. First, this option would lack the power to inspire pride among the region's residents in their natural, historical and cultural heritage and in their identity as a distinct region. This sense of pride is critical for developing a sense of active stewardship. Second, effective "branding" of the Cumberland Plateau as an outstanding, distinctive, and nationally important heritage region will be far more difficult without the official "seal of approval" of formal State or Federal designation. Such a designation would serve to help establish the significance of the region and its resources in the minds of the public, both within the region and without. The third difficulty arises in providing effective coordination among many Federal, State, and local government agencies. A private organization can seek to encourage informal partnerships; but without the credibility provided by a formal government designation, it may lack the leverage to overcome the long-established tendency toward fragmentation of the region. Finally, a privately organized entity would not have access to a dedicated source of government funding, though it could qualify for government grants. Since the Cumberland Plateau region has a number of economically distressed counties, the organization's fundraising capacity would be limited; and the lack of public matching funds would remove an important incentive for private donations.

Thus, this study concludes that the alternative of a private, not-for-profit management scheme without formal government designation and partnership could certainly provide some benefits; but the scope and effectiveness of heritage protection, interpretation, and marketing activities would probably be too limited to achieve important goals.

Barnett's Rib, a natural stone arch in the Obed National Wild and Scenic River, spans 60 feet and rises to a height of 50 feet.

3: State Heritage Corridor Designation

Another option, which has been chosen by several states, is to establish a State Heritage Areas program. Tennessee has already taken a step in that direction in the *2004-2008 Tennessee State Recreation Plan,* which calls for "an initiative to develop Recreational Development Corridor plans for each of four regions: the Appalachian Mountains, the Cumberland Plateau, Tennessee River/ Kentucky Lake, and the Mississippi River," and proposes that the State should "encourage and facilitate interagency partnerships to support each of these corridor plans, and seek ways to provide initial project funding from the State." The Governor has expressed the desire to see all four of these corridors implemented, beginning with the Cumberland Plateau; and all are now at various stages of organizing to seek formal heritage area status. Whether Tennessee might elect to implement this proposal through a formal State Heritage Areas program remains to be seen, but this alternative must be considered as a possible option. For purposes of this analysis, the assumption is made that such a program would mirror the National Heritage Areas program, in which the State would provide formal designation, with a certain level of funding and technical assistance, and each individual area would be managed by a designated local coordinating entity.

This approach has worked fairly well in some cases and has failed in others. State heritage area programs in Colorado, Wisconsin and South Carolina have been curtailed or terminated due to State budget restrictions. Similar programs in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York, and Utah have been ongoing for nine years or longer with annual State funding ranging from $10,000 to $350,000 for each designated area.

This option would at least partially solve the fundamental difficulties of the private heritage area option. It would include some of the branding benefits of formal designation of the area, though without the cache of "national importance" that only a National Heritage Area designation can bestow. As a designation sanctioned by State government, it would presumably include formal dictates for agency cooperation across jurisdictional boundaries. It would also help mobilize local governments and organizations by giving them a stronger sense of the heritage area as an established, high-priority enterprise. State funding, at whatever level might be established, would improve the coordinating entity's abilities both to raise private funds and to undertake heritage development activities.

The primary question raised by this alternative would be adequacy of the level of funding available under a State Heritage Areas program. For purposes of this assessment, one might begin with the conceptual financial plan for the National Heritage Area option, as presented on page 94 of this study, and simply delete the annual NPS funding. This assumption would result in an annual budget of $850,000 for the corridor. That estimate would be purely speculative at this point as the possibility of any State funding for such a program is undetermined, and the lack of Federal matching dollars would make it more difficult to attract other funds and in-kind assistance.

There is a hypothetical minimal level of staffing and funding, below which the organization would be spread too thin to effectively organize and manage a heritage area encompassing 21 counties and 8,872 square miles. Under the budget assumption above, the potential level of funding under the State Heritage Area alternative would be large enough to adequately provide for coordinating entity staffing and operations and for a degree of marketing and product development activities. There would probably not be enough additional funds to provide significant local grants for improvement of important heritage resources or for education projects. Preservation, renovation, and interpretation of these sites and local education and documen-

tation projects would have to find funding elsewhere. These local entities would be able to capitalize on the existence of a formally designated heritage corridor if they have skills in grantwriting and fundraising.

Thus, this assessment concludes that a State Heritage Area may succeed in achieving many of the goals of this initiative, though the specifics of funding for such a program are unresolved at this point.

A pioneer-style cabin at the Museum of Appalachia, fully furnished with period artifacts.

4: National Heritage Corridor Designation

The National Heritage Corridor alternative can significantly increase the potential benefits of the previously discussed alternatives and eliminate the problems associated with them. It would endow the region not only with an official designation but with a certification of "national importance" and a positive association with the widely respected National Park Service brand. It would establish a coordinating entity with the stature and credibility needed to inspire effective partnerships and coordination among the many Federal, State, and local organizations in the corridor. It would provide the funding needed to operate an effective coordinating entity and to award grants to local projects. This alternative would provide potential access to much greater funding than the NPS allocations alone. An NPS survey has estimated that National Heritage Areas attract eight dollars for every dollar allocated by NPS. Thus, this alternative can deliver more dramatic benefits than the others with none of their associated challenges, making it the most effective one for achieving the long-term goals of this heritage corridor initiative.

The one difficulty associated with this alternative resides in the process of achieving it. The Federal designation bill must become law, and this process can be a lengthy one, especially in the current congressional budget environment. Many of the 27 existing National Heritage Areas waited several years between introduction and passage of their designation bills. Thus, a significant delay in implementation must be factored into an assessment of this alternative. If one assesses impacts on the region from the perspective of the next decade, it must be acknowledged that a strategy limited to seeking National Heritage Area designation may in reality begin to achieve significant results only in the last five years. The natural landscape and cultural fabric of the Cumberland Plateau region are already challenged by increasing real estate development, and an implementation delay of five years could result in significant loss of important resources. Given this situation, the NHA alternative cannot be said to fully achieve the original purposes of this heritage corridor initiative.

Therefore, this study concludes that, while National Heritage Corridor designation may be the most beneficial alternative in the long-term, this option is recommended only if the region also takes steps immediately either to seek some form of State Heritage Area designation or to establish a privately organized regional enterprise. Such a strategy will have the added benefit of beginning right away to build organizational capacity and practical experience in the region, strongly reinforcing the likelihood of long-term success for an eventual National Heritage Corridor.

SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS

Assuming that National Heritage Corridor designation would be the most effective means of achieving the goals of this heritage initiative, this study has assessed the possible social and economic impacts of such designation on the region.

Economic Impact Projections

The most relevant data for projecting the possible economic impacts of a National Heritage Corridor designation are contained in *Economic Impacts of National Heritage Areas; Summary Results from Seven National Heritage,* published in June 2004. This report summarizes the results of visitor surveys and economic impact analyses for seven National Heritage Areas. The study utilizes the MGM3 visitor impact model developed for the National Park Service. The following economic impacts were determined:

- Each group of 25,000 visitors spends approximately $2.5 million in the local heritage area region.
- The direct impacts of this spending are $780,000 in wages and salaries, $1.2 million in value added and 51 jobs.
- Secondary employment effects of this spending range from 17% of the direct effects for rural areas to 33% for larger metropolitan regions.
- Based on the visitors sampled at these seven heritage areas, about two thirds of the spending and associated economic impacts would be lost to these regions in the absence of the heritage area identification.

Economic Impacts of Three National Heritage Areas during 2003

	Cane River NHA	Essex NHA	Motor Cities NHA
Visits and Spending:			
Total visits in 2003 (millions)	0.1	1.4	1.2
Average spending per party per night	$171	$179	$165
Total party nights in the region (000's)	51	727	746
Total visitor spending (millions)	$8.70	$130.40	$122.80
Economic Impacts:			
Direct effects:			
Sales (millions)	$7.20	$113.84	$105.53
Jobs	207	3,488	2,107
Personal income (millions)	$2.45	$45.22	$43.12
Total effects:			
Sales (millions)	$9.53	$166.51	$166.27
Jobs	243	4,179	2,748
Personal income (millions)	$3.23	$65.05	$67.37

Source: *Economic Impacts of National Heritage Areas; Summary Results from Seven National Heritage Areas*, Daniel J. Stynes and Ya-Yen Sun, Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies, Michigan State University, June 2004.

FACING PAGE: Cookeville Depot and Railroad Museum.

BELOW: The Tennessee Scenic Parkway through Grassy Cove National Natural Landmark.

It should be noted that none of the three NHAs studied is directly analogous to the proposed Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Area. Essex NHA and Motor Cities NHA are both located in or adjacent to large metropolitan areas, giving them access to significant visitor markets. On the other hand, the Cumberland Plateau has a much larger market area population than the Cane River NHA. An estimated 17.8 million people live in 26 metropolitan areas located within a five-hour drive of at least one major entryway to the Plateau corridor.

Likewise, spending patterns vary among the three NHAs studied, ranging from $2.18 million per 25,000 visitors in the Cane River NHA to $2.56 million in the Motor Cities NHA. Numerous factors can influence the amount spent per visitor, including the relative affluence of the visitor pool, the average length of stay, and the level of tourism-related business infrastructure. In addition, the three areas are different from the Cumberland Plateau in terms of their resource characteristics, as detailed below:

Comparison of the Cumberland Plateau with Three National Heritage Areas

Heritage Area	Region Size (sq. mi.)	National Register Properties	National Historic Landmarks	National Natural Landmarks	National Park Units	Area Population 2000
Cane River	1,256	24	7	0	1	39,080
Essex	501	607	24	1	2	732,419
Motor Cities	8,139	488	16	3	0	5,882,126
Cumberland Plateau	**8,872**	**245**	4	7	**5**	**892,942**

BELOW: The restored coke ovens at Dunlap.

FACING PAGE: One of the Palteau's traditional basket weavers displays her work.

The Stynes report notes that, "the impact models are linear so any adjustments in the overall estimate of visits or trips can be readily translated into revised impact estimates. That is, doubling trips will double impacts and halving them will cut impacts in half." Assuming that the Cane River NHA should be the most relevant of the three areas studied in terms of regional spending and visitation patterns, the impact projections for the Cumberland Plateau are derived from the ratios for that area.

Visitation levels and economic impacts of Heritage Corridor designation on the Cumberland Plateau can be expected to exceed those of the Cane River NHA significantly, for several reasons. The Cumberland Plateau has a much larger potential visitor market, and visitor access to the region is superior, with three Interstate highways carrying a total of nearly 40 million vehicles through the corridor each year. The presence of five nationally important National Park units in the corridor offers a higher profile to visitors than the sites in the Cane River NHA. Taking these factors into account, a figure of 600,000 additional visits annually can be projected for the Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor, six times that of the Cane River NHA but half that of the Essex and Motor Cities NHAs. This assumption results in the following economic impact projections:

Comparison of Cane River NHA Economic Impacts with Projections for the Cumberland Plateau NHC

	Cane River NHA	Cumberland Plateau NHC
Visits and Spending:		
Total visits in 2003 (millions)	0.1	0.6
Average spending per party per night	$171	$1,026
Total party nights in the region (000's)	51	306
Total visitor spending (millions)	$8.70	$52.20
Economic Impacts:		
Direct effects:		
Sales (millions)	$7.20	$43.2
Jobs	207	1242
Personal income (millions)	$2.45	$14.7
Total effects:		
Sales (millions)	$9.53	$57.18
Jobs	243	1458
Personal income (millions)	$3.23	$19.38
Federal NHA funding (millions)	.8	.8

Compared to one measure of current levels of tourism-related impacts in the region, these may be modest. According to *The Economic Impact of Travel on Tennessee Counties 2004*, a study prepared by the Travel Industry Association of America, tourism in the 21 Cumberland Plateau region counties accounted for $1 billion in expenditures; 11,500 jobs; and $229 million in payrolls. It should be noted, however, that these figures are extrapolations from indirect data sources, such as national travel surveys and State tax receipts, and are not direct measures of actual visitor spending. By contrast, the Stynes research is based on spending data collected directly from visitors to the area, and is therefore significantly more rigorous and conservative.

Finally, it should be noted that heritage tourism could provide economic benefits to the region even if visitation does not increase significantly. Heritage initiatives can increase lengths of stay and spending patterns, since heritage tourists tend to spend more, stay in hotels more often, visit more destinations, and stay longer than other types of tourists. Since the early 1990s, heritage tourism has been one of the fastest-growing segments of tourism in the country, especially for day trips and long weekends.

Other Socioeconomic Impacts

New Investment in the Region. Funding assistance from National Park Service during the first ten years of the National Heritage Corridor's existence will act as a catalyst to attract additional rural economic development grants from many other Federal sources. These Federal dollars can also be leveraged through the private and corporate support, which is the largest component of overall National Heritage Area funding.

Conservation. Federal designation will encourage local commitments to protecting valuable natural resources and to new incentives for businesses to pursue sustainable strategies that entail stewardship of resources.

Historic Preservation. Federal designation will help strengthen local commitments to protection of historic structures, districts, and sites; and increased visitation to existing interpretive sites will provide economic incentives to restore others that have been neglected.

Pride and Regional Identity. These "most underappreciated mountains in America" will become known and loved by people outside the region. New research and interpretation of the region's rich history and

BELOW: Students rapelling at Stone Door in the South Cumberland State Recreation Area.

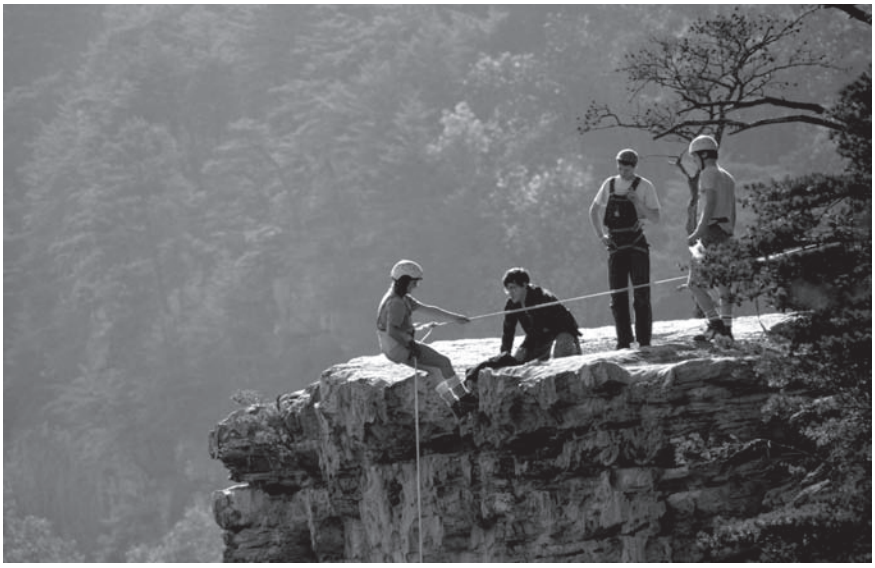
FACING PAGE: A stretch of the corridor's estimated 700 miles of State Scenic Parkways.

culture and new educational programs will engender a greater sense of local awareness and pride in the region's adults and children.

Quality of Life. National Heritage Corridor designation will encourage restoration and redevelopment of small towns and Main Streets. New retail businesses, attracted to a stronger business climate, will provide more diverse options for residents. Development of the corridor as a heritage area will encourage beautification of roadways, parks, greenways, and stream corridors. The local management of the corridor will give the residents greater local control over the future of the region.

Improved Recreational Opportunities. Formal designation of the region will attract increased funding for new recreational facilities, such as parklands, trails and greenways, and bike routes. These new recreational opportunities can provide public benefits in the form of increased exercise and fitness and decreased incidence of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

Induced Economic Development. Increased awareness of and visitation to the region will foster a stronger business climate for tourism-related small business start-ups. In addition, enhancements to quality of life and greater awareness of the Plateau's outstanding recreational opportunities will make the region more competitive in recruiting new businesses.



Potential Negative Impacts

The public input regarding this heritage corridor initiative revealed one specific concern about possible negative impacts. Several speakers questioned whether National Heritage Area designation might lead to the kind of intense tourism-related development which has transformed the towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. In fact, these examples are instructive. National Geographic Traveler magazine's 2004 "Stewardship Index," rated 115 global tourist destinations according to six criteria: environmental and ecological quality; social and cultural integrity; condition of historic buildings and archaeological sites; aesthetic appeal; quality of tourism management; and the outlook for the future. The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, or more specifically Gatlinburg, received one of the lowest rankings and was cited for poor environmental conditions, aesthetics, and tourism management. This nearby example clearly suggests that increased visitation can prove detrimental.

Thus, this feasibility study has addressed the likelihood of a "Gatlinburg effect" occurring on the Cumberland Plateau if the region were designated a National Heritage Corridor. The primary fact that must be acknowledged at the outset is that, given the protection of private property rights ensured in this corridor's draft designation bill, the local coordinating entity of the National Heritage Corridor would have no power to prevent a private developer from building, for example, a theme park, or other non-heritage-based, large-scale entertainment attraction. However, there are several reasons why the Cumberland Plateau will be less attractive than Gatlinburg for such intensely localized development. Approximately 10 million visitors come to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Most of these do not hike into the park's 517,000 acres of virtual wilderness and are thus concentrated on a small number of roads. As the gateway to this major national attraction, Gatlinburg could hardly have escaped becoming a site of

intense development designed to serve the needs of a high concentration of visitors.

By contrast, the 600,000 additional visitors projected for the Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor will be dispersed over a region of 8,872 square miles with 594,000 acres of public lands and hundreds of historic sites. Because the Plateau is still a settled area rather than a Federal preserve, a far more diverse range of options exists for visitors to the Plateau corridor. Parks and natural areas, museums, historic towns, scenic byways, lakes, rivers, and festivals all provide different kinds of opportunities and will appeal to different kinds of visitors, causing further dispersal.

Most importantly, the marketing activities of the Heritage Corridor's local coordinating entity will be designed not to encourage intensive development but rather to pursue the goals of this initiative, which include:

- To promote a stewardship vision for the region that places history, culture and nature in the context of a distinctive, nationally significant regional identity.

- To preserve, restore and interpret the region's many important historical and archaeological sites.

- To increase public awareness and enjoyment of the region's outstanding scenic beauty and recreational opportunities.

- To enhance economic opportunity in the region through sensitive, sustainable heritage-based and nature-based tourism and through support for traditional uses of the land.

Thus, the visitor niche which the corridor will target will contain those who are interested in experiencing authentic natural, cultural, and historic aspects of our national heritage rather than those attracted to intensely developed areas. This particular visitor profile should do little to encourage high-intensity development.

Certain cities in the corridor will indeed function as gateways because food and lodging are more available there. Data provided by the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development indicates a total of 298 lodging establishments in the corridor counties. These are divided among the counties as follows:

County	Lodging Establishments
Hamilton	73
Cumberland	29
Fentress	28
Putnam	25
Anderson	20
Campbell	18
Warren	18
Roane	13
Rhea	11
Claiborne	10
Franklin	10
Grundy	10
Pickett	7
Scott	7
Bledsoe	6
Marion	6
Sequatchie	4
Van Buren	4
Morgan	3
Overton	3
White	1

This table can be a considered to represent a general indicator of where the greatest visitor impacts are already being experienced and where new impacts are more likely to occur. It should be noted that the counties with the highest numbers of lodging establishments also have active tourism marketing programs in place, and therefore increasing visitor impacts are likely to occur in these areas with or without National Heritage Corridor designation. Interestingly, Chattanooga, with by far the greatest concentration of current visitors, might have been considered as a candidate to become another Gatlinburg, but this would in fact be highly unlikely because of the city's persistent promotion of environmentally sensitive development and high quality of life. Indeed, Chattanooga, rather than Gatlinburg, will serve as the Plateau's model and source of expertise for sensitive, sustainable growth.

Summary of Impacts

ALTERNATIVE 1: CONTINUATION OF CURRENT PRACTICES

Federal Involvement

Under this alternative, there would be no formal designation of a Heritage Corridor. No additional Federal mechanisms for resource recognition or protection would be pursued. Federal involvement in the area would be limited to existing competitive grant and technical assistance programs.

Administration

Without a Heritage Corridor organization, regional heritage initiatives would be difficult to coordinate. Preservation efforts would probably continue to be fragmented and uncoordinated due to limited technical assistance and lack of funding.

Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Experience

Existing cultural and natural sites in the Cumberland Plateau would continue to maintain the current visitor experience and levels of interpretation.

These sites would not benefit from increased coordination, and visitors would not receive a cohesive interpretation providing a thematic regional context for the sites. Since opportunities for interpretation and education would not increase over existing levels, cultural and natural resources would not benefit from increased appreciation or heightened concern about their long-term survival.

Impacts on Historic, Natural and Cultural Resources

There would be no additional impacts to natural and cultural resources. Neither would there be positive preservation measures for cultural and natural resources.

FACING PAGE TOP: A Cedar Waxwing.

BOTTOM: Laurel-Snow Pocket Wilderness State Natural Area.

Impacts on Park and Recreation Resources

Without a Heritage Corridor coordinating entity, regional recreational opportunities would be more difficult to coordinate than under other alternatives.

Socio-Economic Impacts

Except for normal visitor increases generated by individual sites, visitor volume, expenditures, and lengths of stay would not increase over existing levels. Local businesses would not generate additional income or sales tax revenues.

Transportation

There would be no increase in traffic in the area beyond the level of traffic generated by existing uses.

Pollution and Wastewater Disposal

Since there would be no increase in visitor volume, there would be no commensurate increases in pollution and wastewater disposal.

Community Development

With no new heritage programs, there would be no new positive investments in the local communities except those generated by existing organizations.

ALTERNATIVE 2: PRIVATELY-ORGANIZED HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Federal Involvement

Under this alternative, there would be no formal designation of a Heritage Corridor. No additional Federal mechanisms for resource recognition or protection would be pursued. Federal involvement in the region would be limited to existing competitive grant and technical assistance programs.

Administration

A privately organized and funded management entity would promote an increased appreciation of heritage resources and themes in the region. It is assumed that this organization would have significantly fewer resources than a National Heritage Corridor.

The private heritage organization would most likely concentrate on publishing brochures and organizing heritage trails and other kinds of tours. It probably would not have the capacity to create a forum for communities, business, nonprofit institutions, property owners, and users of resources to work together in identifying, protecting, and developing heritage resources.

Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Experience

Opportunities for interpretation and education available to both visitors and residents would be modestly increased. Since resources for these efforts would be relatively small, however, opportunities for learning about broad regional themes and connections between individual historic and natural sites would be limited mainly to brochures and occasional special events and tours. Developing residents' appreciation of the region's cultural and natural heritage could increase pride in the area. Enhanced interpretation and promotion could bring greater recognition and assistance for long-term preservation of heritage resources.

Impacts on Historic, Natural and Cultural Resources

Increases in visitor volume and length of stay would generate marginally greater impacts on natural areas and cultural resources. There could be an estimated 50,000 additional visitors spread across the Heritage Corridor. These new visitors would not likely cause additional congestion over traffic levels at existing individual sites.

This alternative could interpret heritage themes and promote visitation to heritage sites, mainly through brochures, special events, and tours. Nevertheless, this management alternative would most likely lack the resources to promote conservation of scenic and working landscapes, preservation of historic structures and objects, and conservation of the region's traditional culture. Funds would not be available to make grants to local nonprofit heritage organizations, undertake education and research projects, outfit visitor centers or erect signage.

Impacts on Park and Recreation Resources

A privately organized heritage group would probably lack the resources to promote development of walking/biking trails and motor trails or development of recreational and interpretive opportunities.

Socio-Economic Impacts

A lesser number of visitors would be anticipated than under the National Heritage Corridor alternative. A privately organized Heritage Corridor would lack the Federal designation and funding that comes with a National Heritage Corridor and would be less

Black bear have been reintroduced into the northern Plateau, where large tracts of unbroken forest provide the range they need to thrive.

likely to carry out preservation and interpretation projects that would attract new visitors to the area. The total annual tourism economic impact is estimated to be $4.7 million.

The expected effects would entail modest increases in visitor trips and longer vacation stays. Accompanying an increase in tourism expenditures would be increased sales tax revenues, payroll and supply expenditures in the local economy, and local employment.

These increases would mean added income for local businesses and could expand the market for overnight accommodations, restaurants, and other retail venues.

Transportation

The increases in visitor volume and length of stay would generate an estimated 50,000 additional visits. Although this additional visitor volume would increase vehicular volume, the traffic increase would be imperceptible to the average motorist and resident. This alternative probably would not generate enough additional funding to provide improved auto signage or promote meaningful non-automobile transportation.

Pollution and Wastewater Disposal

The increases in visitor volume and length of stay would generate corresponding impacts associated with increases in pollution and wastewater disposal. These impacts would be extremely modest, given that the projected visitor volume increase would be only 50,000 visits per year.

Community Development

Promoting heritage themes can increase local pride; but this alternative will not attract new financial resources for preservation and economic and community development.

ALTERNATIVE 3: STATE HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Federal Involvement

Under this alternative, there would be a formal State designation of a Heritage Corridor. No Federal mechanisms for resource recognition or protection would be available. Federal involvement in the region would be limited to existing competitive grant and technical assistance programs.

Administration

A State Heritage Corridor coordinating entity would promote an increased appreciation of heritage resources and themes in the region. It is likely that this organization would have significantly fewer resources than a National Heritage Corridor but more than a private entity without State designation.

The State Heritage Corridor organization would most likely concentrate on publishing brochures and organizing heritage trails and walking tours. It probably would have limited capacity to create a forum for communities, business, nonprofit institutions, property owners, and users of resources to work together in identifying, protecting, and developing heritage resources. It would be better positioned to mobilize technical assistance from State agencies.

Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Experience

Opportunities for interpretation and education available to both visitors and residents would be increased compared to a private management alternative. Resources for these efforts would still be relatively small, but would provide for some increased opportunities for learning about broad regional themes and connections between individual historic and natural sites. Having formal recognition of the region's cultural and natural heritage could increase pride in the area. Enhanced interpretation and promotion could bring

greater recognition and assistance for long-term preservation of heritage resources.

Impacts on Historic, Natural and Cultural Resources

Increases in visitor volume and length of stay would generate marginally greater impacts on natural areas and cultural resources. There would be an estimated 200,000 additional visitor days spread across the Heritage Corridor. Given the size of the corridor, these new visitors would be widely dispersed and would not likely cause additional congestion over traffic levels at existing individual sites.

This alternative could interpret heritage themes and promote visitation to heritage sites, mainly through brochures, special events, and tours. In addition, this management alternative would have some limited resources to resources to promote conservation of scenic and working landscapes, preservation of historic structures and objects, and conservation of the region's traditional culture. The coordinating entity would also have some ability to outfit visitor centers and erect signage, especially if assisted by partnership with State agencies. Additional funds would probably not be available to make significant levels of grants to local nonprofit heritage organizations or to undertake extensive education and research projects.

Impacts on Park and Recreation Resources

A State Heritage Corridor would be able to work with State agencies to develop walking/biking trails and motor trails and to develop recreational and interpretive opportunities.

Socio-Economic Impacts

A lower number of visitors would be anticipated than under the National Heritage Corridor alternative. A State Heritage Corridor, lacking the Federal designation and funding that comes with a National Heritage Corridor, would be less able to carry out preservation and interpretation projects that would attract new visitors to the area. The total annual economic impact of additional tourism is estimated to be $19 million.

The expected effects would entail modest increases in visitor trips and longer vacation stays. Accompanying an increase in tourism expenditures would be increased sales tax revenues, payroll and supply expenditures in the local economy, and local employment. These increases would mean added income for local businesses and could expand the market for overnight accommodations, restaurants, and other retail venues.

Transportation

The increases in visitor volume and length of stay would generate corresponding increases in vehicular traffic. A State Heritage Corridor is estimated to generate an additional 200,000 visits. Although additional visitor volume would increase vehicular volume, the traffic increase would be widely dispersed and probably imperceptible to the average motorist and resident.

Partnerships with State agencies could provide improved auto signage and promote non-automobile transportation.

Pollution and Wastewater Disposal

The increases in visitor volume and length of stay would generate corresponding impacts associated with increases in pollution and wastewater disposal. These impacts would be relatively modest, given that the projected visitor volume increase would be 200,000 visits per year.

Community Development

The formal recognition of a State Heritage Corridor designation can increase local pride and attract new financial resources and technical assistance for preservation and economic and community development.

Burgess Falls State Natural Area.

ALTERNATIVE 4: NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Federal Involvement

Under this alternative, Congress would designate the Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor and would designate a local coordinating entity to prepare a management plan, establish priorities, and implement the plan in cooperation with other parties. Through provision of technical assistance for planning and preservation, the National Park Service could contribute to the long-term preservation and interpretation of cultural and natural resources in the area.

Administration

A local coordinating entity supported by Federal legislation could focus regional attention on resource protection. Under this alternative, there would be an organization for coordinating Federal, State, regional, and local programs to address the protection of cultural and natural resources and promote heritage tourism. The coordinating entity would serve as a forum for communities, businesses, nonprofit institutions, property owners, and users of resources to work together in identifying, protecting, and developing Heritage Corridor resources appropriately.

The coordinating entity would become an information clearinghouse, coordinating efforts that would increase public awareness and stewardship of local resources. Other National Heritage Corridor entities around the country have proven effective at protecting and interpreting natural and cultural resources. They have built in broad geographic and interest group representation capable of facilitating complex planning projects.

Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Experience

Under this alternative there would be increased opportunities for interpretation and education available to both visitors and residents throughout the area. Visitors would receive a broad overview of the region, indicating how specific historical, cultural and natural sites fit into major regional themes. Developing residents' appreciation of the region's cultural and natural heritage would increase pride in the area. Enhanced interpretation and promotion could bring greater recognition and assistance from all levels of government and from the private sector.

The Federal funding and assistance available under this alternative would enhance the visitor experience more than the other alternatives because it could pay for signage, information centers, wayside exhibits, museum exhibits, new research, and education programs. The existence of these amenities would not in itself attract a large number of new visitors to the region, but would enhance the experience of those do come.

Impacts on Historic, Natural and Cultural Resources

The increases in visitor volume and length of stay would generate marginally greater impacts on natural areas and cultural resources. An estimated 600,000 additional visits would be spread across the Heritage Corridor. New

visitation would not likely cause additional congestion over traffic levels at existing individual sites.

This alternative could stimulate conservation of scenic and working landscapes in the area and preservation of historic structures and objects. The level of Federal funding and technical assistance potentially available under this alternative could generate greater resources to promote conservation of scenic and working landscapes, preservation of historic structures and objects, and conservation of the region's traditional culture. Funds would be available for the National Heritage Corridor to make grants to local heritage nonprofit organizations for preservation and interpretation.

Impacts on Park and Recreation Resources

Communities could benefit from a coordinated effort that includes National Park Service support to expand and link recreational facilities.

Socio-Economic Impacts

Under this alternative, the Heritage Corridor would receive Federal designation, which reflects national recognition of the area's importance. The National Heritage Corridor designation would carry with it the National Park Service "seal of approval" and would receive publicity in NPS descriptive materials.

This recognition can increase the national and international marketability of the region and increase the coordinating entity's ability to leverage funding. This alternative would have an estimated annual economic impact of $57.2 million.

The expected effects would entail increases in visitor trips and longer vacation stays. An increase in tourism expenditures would be accompanied by increased sales tax revenues, payroll and supply expenditures in the local economy, and local employment. These increases would mean added income for local businesses and could expand the market for overnight accommodations, restaurants, and other retail venues.

Transportation

The increases in visitor volume and length of stay would generate corresponding increases in vehicular traffic. This alternative is projected to add 600,000 additional annual visits. Although additional visitor volume would increase vehicular volume, the associated increase would be spread over a wide area and would probably be imperceptible to the average motorist.

This alternative, which would have a greater visitor impact than the others, could produce mitigation measures that could not only help offset potential negative environmental impacts associated with increases in vehicular use, but could enhance transportation options in the Cumberland Plateau region. Mitigation measures could include improving public transportation, bicycle, and walking opportunities, implementing multimodal transportation linkages, and making automobile trips more efficient through better directions and signage. These measures could lead to a reduction in overall car trips.

Pollution and Wastewater Disposal

The increases in visitor volume and length of stay would generate corresponding impacts associated with increases in pollution and wastewater disposal. These impacts would be relatively modest, given that the projected visitor volume increase would be 600,000 visits per year, spread over a 21-county region.

Community Development

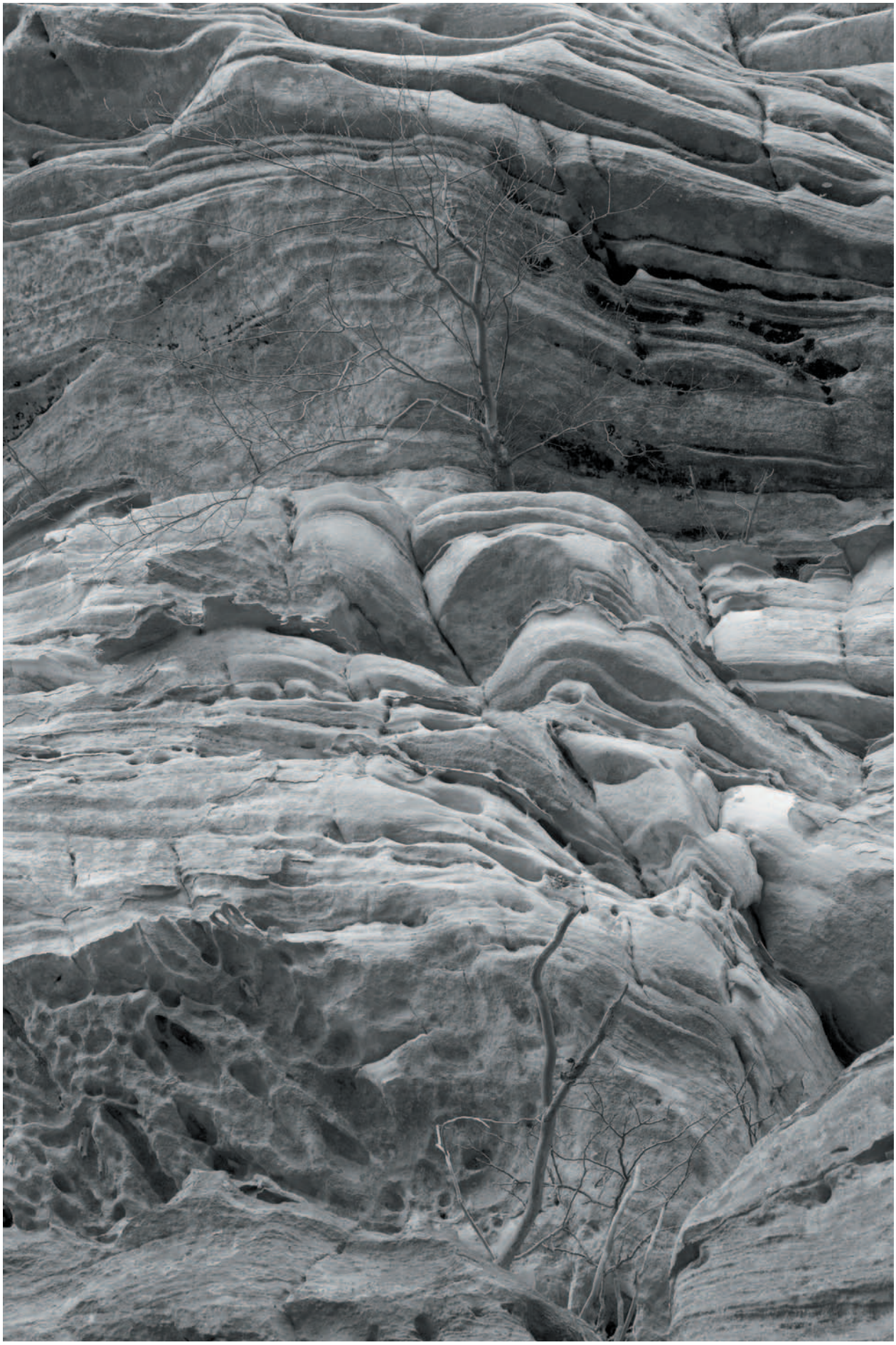
By promoting regional pride, heritage themes, and the preservation of cultural and natural resources, the National Heritage Corridor would help attract financial resources and technical assistance to support economic and community development projects.

CONCLUSION

This assessment concludes that, of the four alternatives which were assessed, the National Heritage Corridor option would provide the greatest economic benefits to the region. It would also provide the highest level of funding and leverage to support environmental protection, historic preservation, and cultural conservation in the Cumberland Plateau region. Though generating the highest levels of visitor impacts, this alternative would also produce the most significant environmental benefits.

This study also concludes that the immediate challenges to the region's natural, historical, and cultural resources are pressing and call for immediate solutions. Therefore, the State Heritage Corridor option could provide an effective interim strategy until a National Heritage Corridor bill can be enacted. This option would formalize the State's strong commitment to this initiative and would provide a framework under which a local coordinating entity can gain practical experience in dealing with the many complexities of heritage corridor development and management.

Trail riders in the Bg South Fork National River and Recreation Area.



APPENDIX 1: MAPS

1. Federal and State Public Recreation Lands

2. Arches and Caves

3. National Register of Historic Places - Sites and Structures

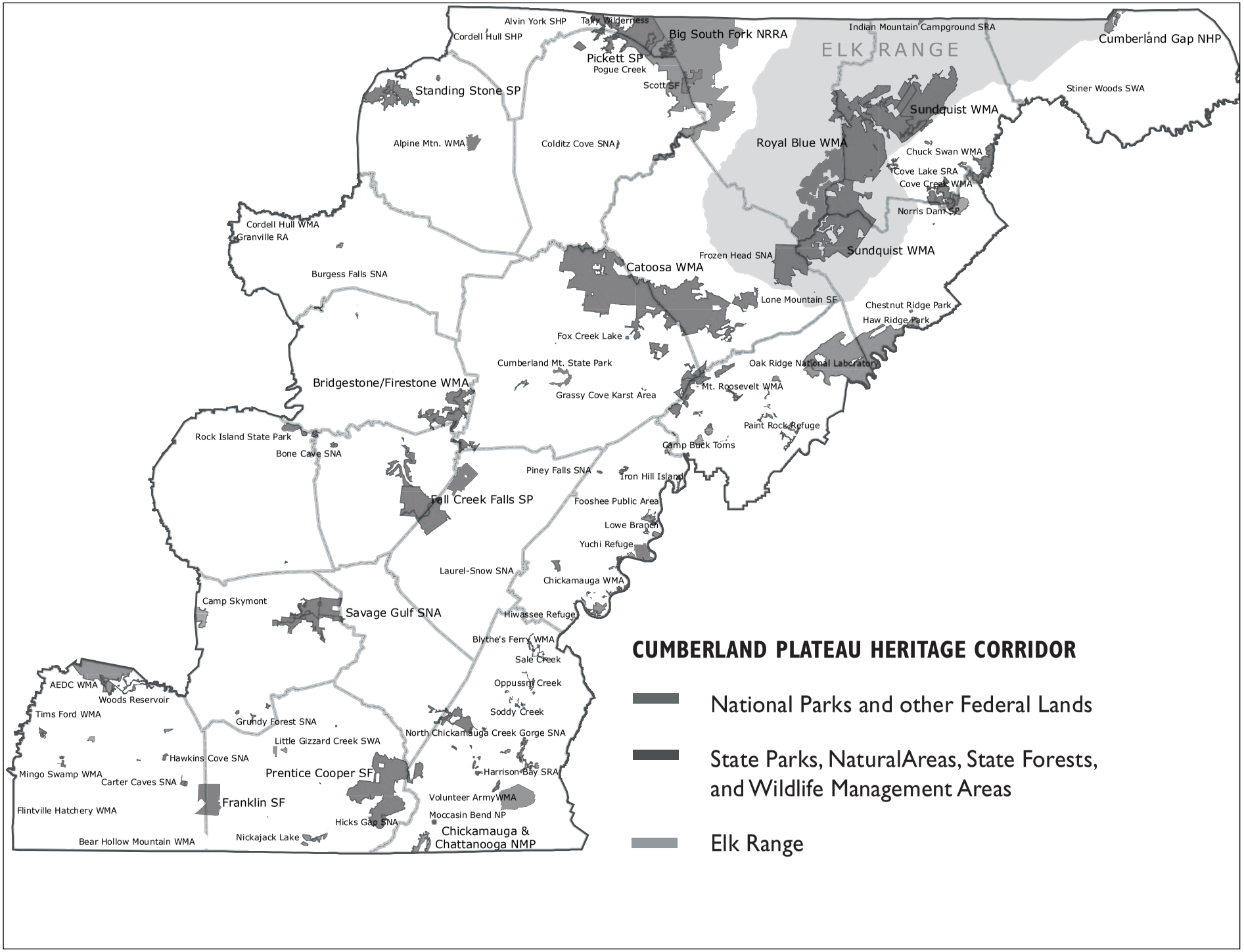
4. National Register of Historic Places - Historic Districts

5. Waterfalls and "Outstandingly Exceptional" Stream Segments

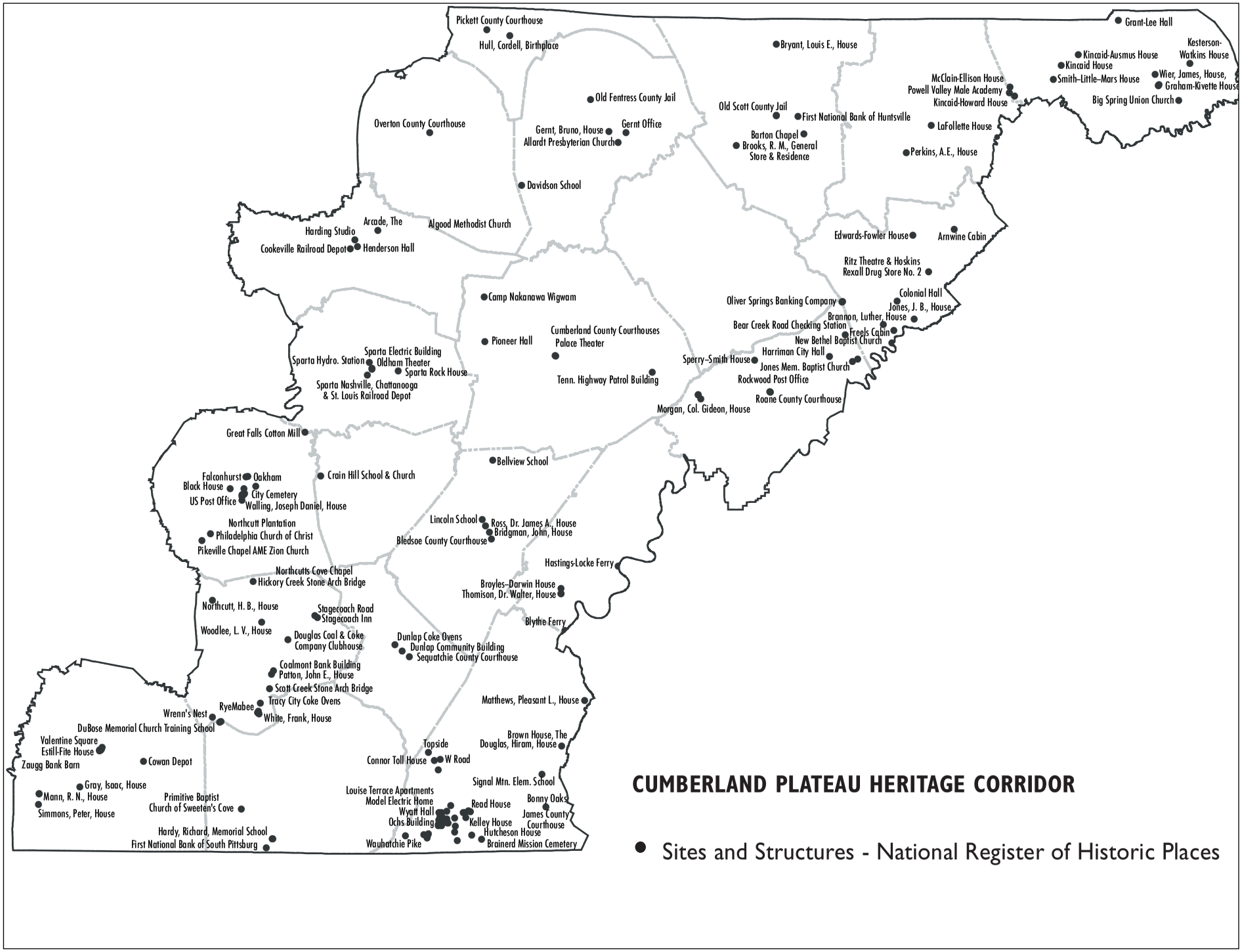
6. Concentration of Habitats for Rare Fauna Species

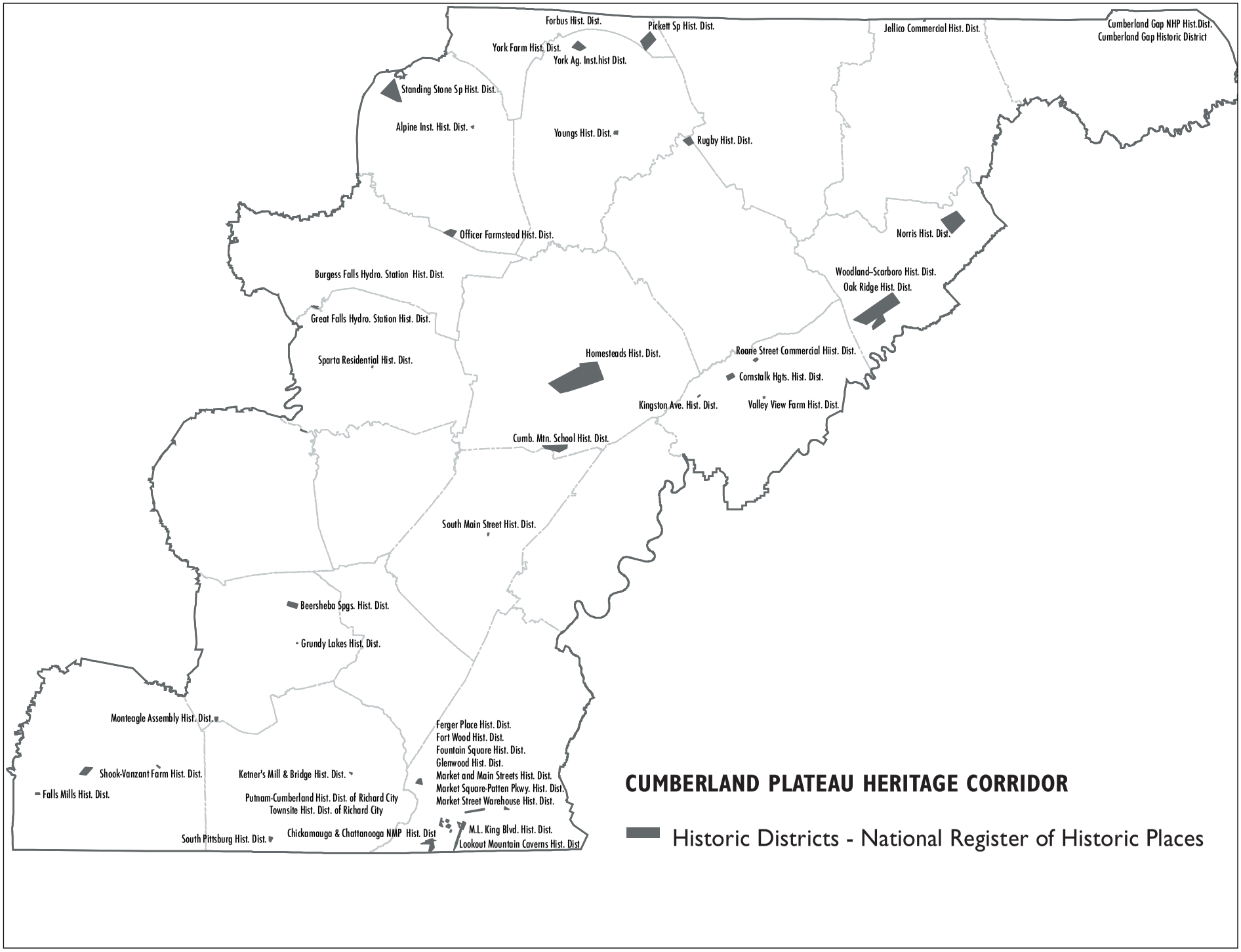
7. Tennessee State Scenic Parkways

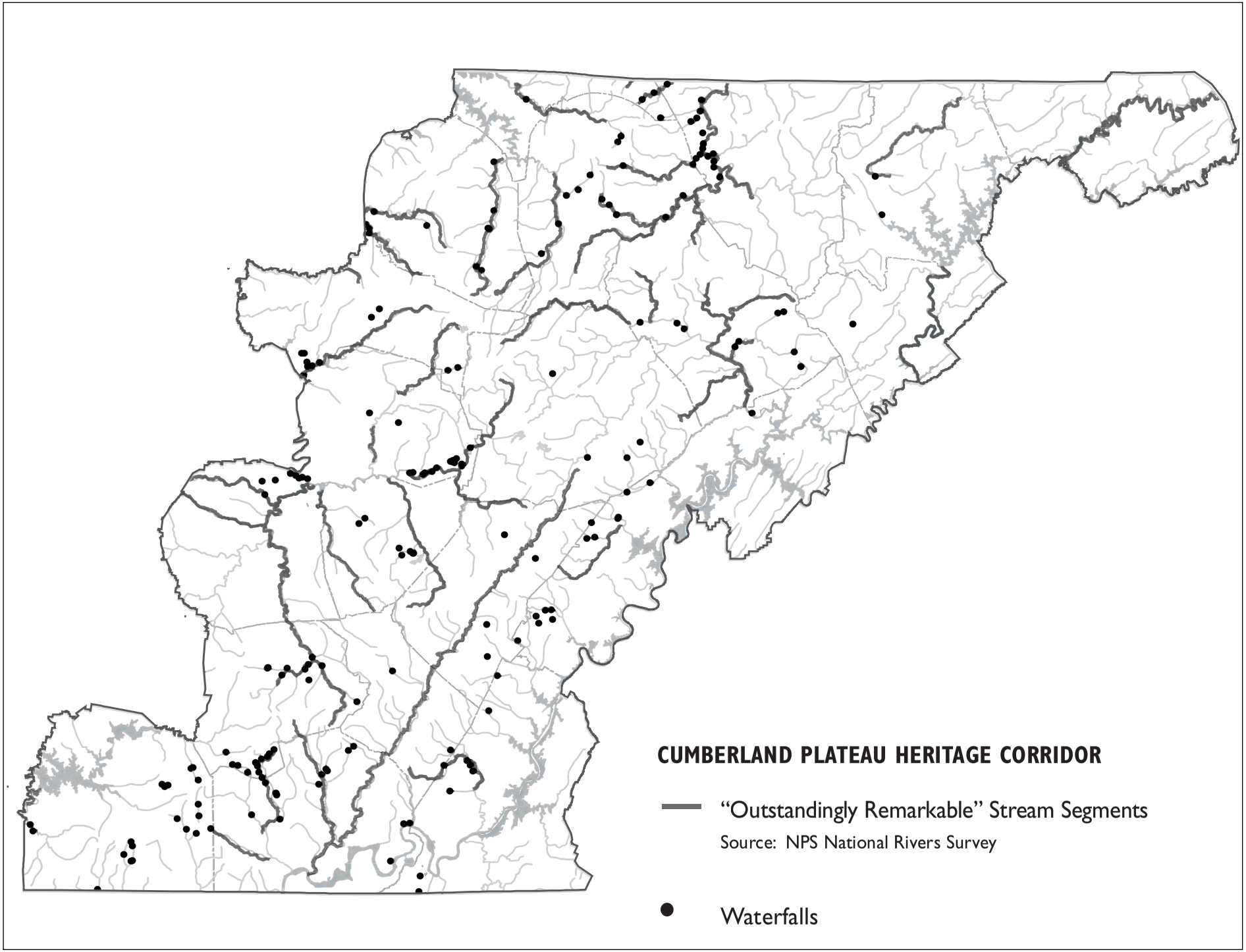
8. Tennessee State Bicycle Routes

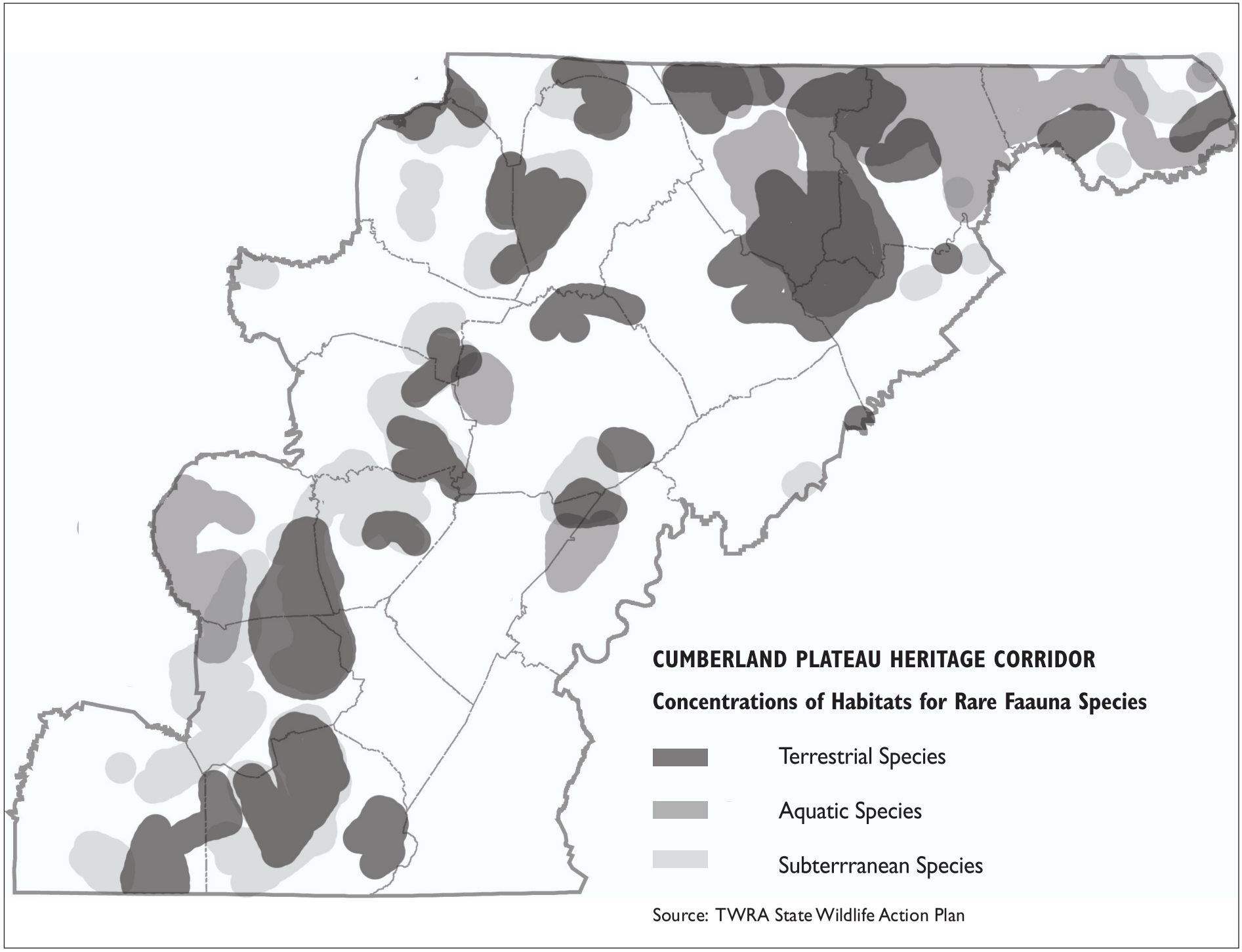

Alvin York SHP
Cordell Hull SHP
Big South Fork NRRA
Indian Mountain Campground SRA
Cumberland Gap NHP
ELK RANGE
Pickett SP
Pogue Creek
Scott SF
Standing Stone SP
Stiner Woods SWA
Sundquist WMA
Alpine Mtn. WMA
Colditz Cove SNA
Royal Blue WMA
Chuck Swan WMA
Cove Lake SRA
Cove Creek WMA
Norris Dam SP
Cordell Hull WMA
Granville RA
Frozen Head SNA
Sundquist WMA
Catoosa WMA
Burgess Falls SNA
Lone Mountain SF
Chestnut Ridge Park
Haw Ridge Park
Fox Creek Lake
Cumberland Mt. State Park
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Bridgestone/Firestone WMA
Grassy Cove Karst Area
Mt. Roosevelt WMA
Paint Rock Refuge
Rock Island State Park
Camp Buck Toms
Bone Cave SNA
Piney Falls SNA
Iron Hill Island
Fall Creek Falls SP
Fooshee Public Area
Lowe Branch
Yuchi Refuge
Laurel-Snow SNA
Chickamauga WMA
Camp Skymont
Savage Gulf SNA
Hiwassee Refuge
Blythe's Ferry WMA
Sale Creek
AEDC WMA
Oppussum Creek
Woods Reservoir
Soddy Creek
Tims Ford WMA
Grundy Forest SNA
North Chickamauga Creek Gorge SNA
Little Gizzard Creek SWA
Hawkins Cove SNA
Harrison Bay SRA
Mingo Swamp WMA
Prentice Cooper SF
Carter Caves SNA
Volunteer ArmyWMA
Franklin SF
Flintville Hatchery WMA
Moccasin Bend NP
Hicks Gap SNA
Chickamauga &
Chattanooga NMP
Nickajack Lake
Bear Hollow Mountain WMA
CUMBERLAND PLATEAU HERITAGE CORRIDOR
National Parks and other Federal Lands
State Parks, NaturalAreas, State Forests,
and Wildlife Management Areas
Elk Range

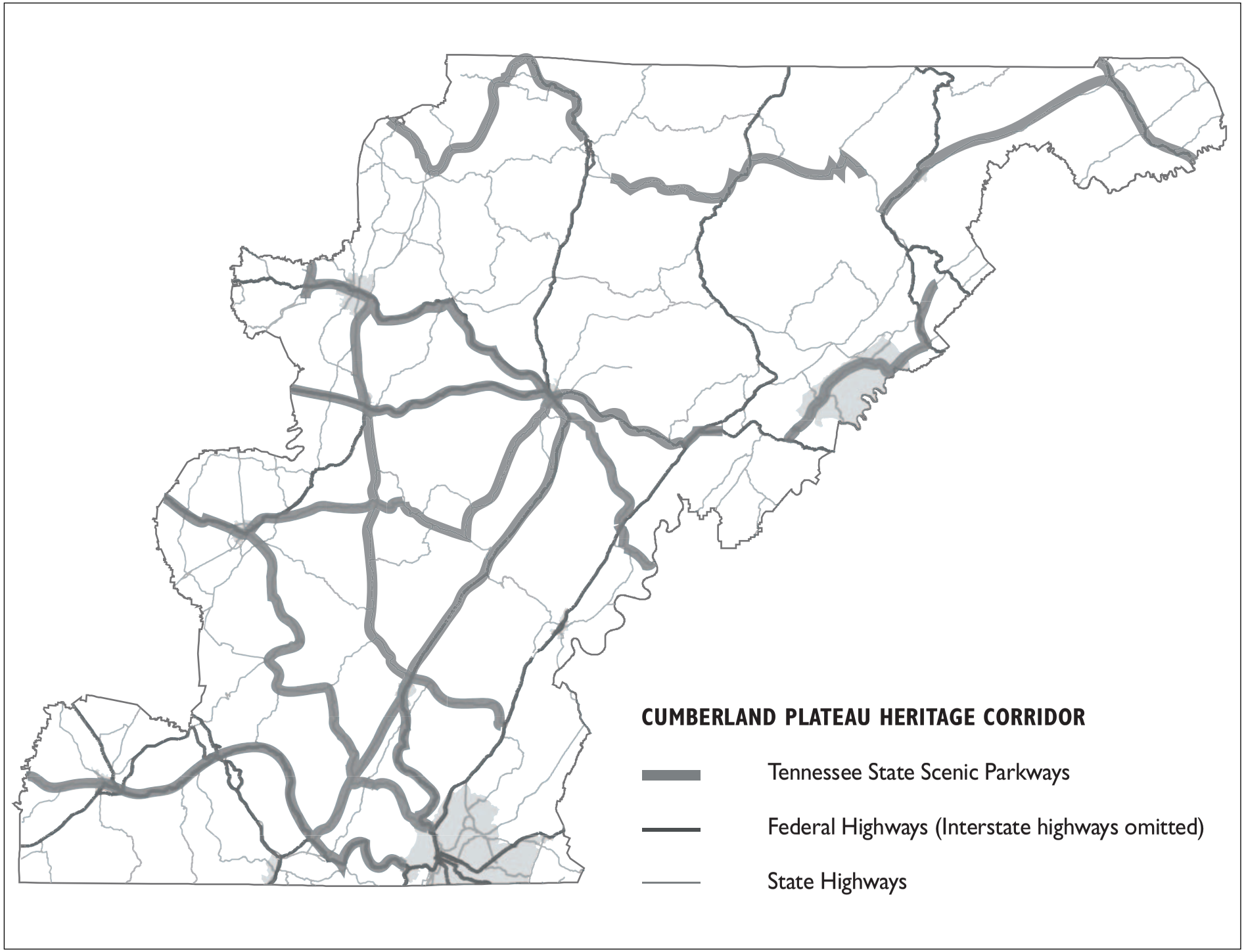
CUMBERLAND PLATEAU HERITAGE CORRIDOR
Arches
Caves

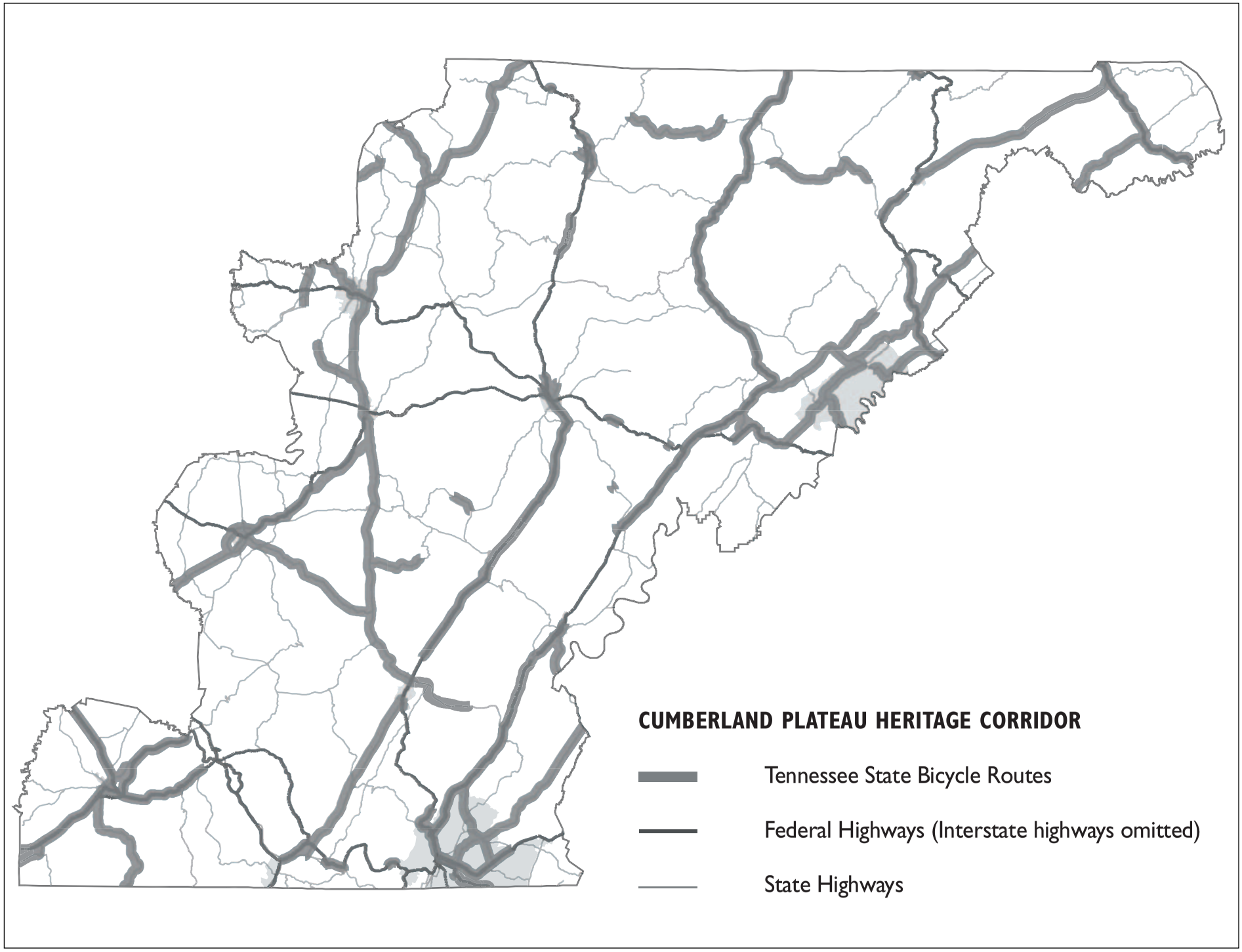

Pickett County Courthouse
Hull, Cordell, Birthplace
Bryant, Louis E., House
Grant-Lee Hall
Kesterson-Watkins House
Kincaid-Ausmus House
Kincaid House
Smith–Little–Mars House
Wier, James, House,
Graham-Kivette House
McClain-Ellison House
Powell Valley Male Academy
Kincaid-Howard House
Big Spring Union Church
Old Fentress County Jail
Old Scott County Jail
First National Bank of Huntsville
LaFollette House
Overton County Courthouse
Gernt, Bruno, House
Gernt Office
Allardt Presbyterian Church
Barton Chapel
Brooks, R. M., General Store & Residence
Perkins, A.E., House
Davidson School
Arcade, The
Algood Methodist Church
Harding Studio
Cookeville Railroad Depot
Henderson Hall
Edwards-Fowler House
Arnwine Cabin
Ritz Theatre & Hoskins Rexall Drug Store No. 2
Camp Nakanawa Wigwam
Oliver Springs Banking Company
Colonial Hall
Jones, J. B., House
Brannon, Luther, House
Bear Creek Road Checking Station
Freels Cabin
New Bethel Baptist Church
Pioneer Hall
Cumberland County Courthouses
Palace Theater
Harriman City Hall
Sperry–Smith House
Jones Mem. Baptist Church
Rockwood Post Office
Roane County Courthouse
Sparta Electric Building
Sparta Hydro. Station
Oldham Theater
Sparta Rock House
Sparta Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad Depot
Tenn. Highway Patrol Building
Morgan, Col. Gideon, House
Great Falls Cotton Mill
Bellview School
Crain Hill School & Church
Falconhurst
Oakham
Black House
City Cemetery
US Post Office
Walling, Joseph Daniel, House
Lincoln School
Ross, Dr. James A., House
Bridgman, John, House
Bledsoe County Courthouse
Northcutt Plantation
Philadelphia Church of Christ
Pikeville Chapel AME Zion Church
Hastings-Locke Ferry
Northcutts Cove Chapel
Hickory Creek Stone Arch Bridge
Broyles–Darwin House
Thomison, Dr. Walter, House
Northcutt, H. B., House
Stagecoach Road
Stagecoach Inn
Blythe Ferry
Woodlee, L. V., House
Douglas Coal & Coke Company Clubhouse
Dunlap Coke Ovens
Dunlap Community Building
Sequatchie County Courthouse
Coalmont Bank Building
Patton, John E., House
Scott Creek Stone Arch Bridge
Tracy City Coke Ovens
Matthews, Pleasant L., House
RyeMabee
Wrenn's Nest
White, Frank, House
DuBose Memorial Church Training School
Valentine Square
Estill-Fite House
Topside
Brown House, The
Douglas, Hiram, House
Zaugg Bank Barn
Cowan Depot
Connor Toll House
W Road
Signal Mtn. Elem. School
Gray, Isaac, House
Louise Terrace Apartments
Model Electric Home
Bonny Oaks
Mann, R. N., House
Primitive Baptist Church of Sweeten's Cove
Wyatt Hall
Read House
James County Courthouse
Simmons, Peter, House
Ochs Building
Kelley House
Hutcheson House
Hardy, Richard, Memorial School
First National Bank of South Pittsburg
Wauhatchie Pike
Brainerd Mission Cemetery
CUMBERLAND PLATEAU HERITAGE CORRIDOR
Sites and Structures - National Register of Historic Places


Forbus Hist. Dist.
Pickett Sp Hist. Dist.
Jellico Commercial Hist. Dist.
Cumberland Gap NHP Hist.Dist.
Cumberland Gap Historic District
York Farm Hist. Dist.
York Ag. Inst.hist Dist.
Standing Stone Sp Hist. Dist.
Alpine Inst. Hist. Dist.
Youngs Hist. Dist.
Rugby Hist. Dist.
Officer Farmstead Hist. Dist.
Norris Hist. Dist.
Burgess Falls Hydro. Station Hist. Dist.
Woodland-Scarboro Hist. Dist.
Oak Ridge Hist. Dist.
Great Falls Hydro. Station Hist. Dist.
Sparta Residential Hist. Dist.
Homesteads Hist. Dist.
Roane Street Commercial Hiist. Dist.
Cornstalk Hgts. Hist. Dist.
Kingston Ave. Hist. Dist.
Valley View Farm Hist. Dist.
Cumb. Mtn. School Hist. Dist.
South Main Street Hist. Dist.
Beersheba Spgs. Hist. Dist.
Grundy Lakes Hist. Dist.
Monteagle Assembly Hist. Dist.
Ferger Place Hist. Dist.
Fort Wood Hist. Dist.
Fountain Square Hist. Dist.
Glenwood Hist. Dist.
Market and Main Streets Hist. Dist.
Market Square-Patten Pkwy. Hist. Dist.
Market Street Warehouse Hist. Dist.
Shook-Vanzant Farm Hist. Dist.
Ketner's Mill & Bridge Hist. Dist.
Falls Mills Hist. Dist.
Putnam-Cumberland Hist. Dist. of Richard City
Townsite Hist. Dist. of Richard City
Chickamauga & Chattanooga NMP Hist. Dist
M.L. King Blvd. Hist. Dist.
Lookout Mountain Caverns Hist. Dist
South Pittsburg Hist. Dist.
CUMBERLAND PLATEAU HERITAGE CORRIDOR
Historic Districts - National Register of Historic Places


CUMBERLAND PLATEAU HERITAGE CORRIDOR
"Outstandingly Remarkable" Stream Segments
Source: NPS National Rivers Survey
Waterfalls


CUMBERLAND PLATEAU HERITAGE CORRIDOR
Concentrations of Habitats for Rare Faauna Species
Terrestrial Species
Aquatic Species
Subterrranean Species
Source: TWRA State Wildlife Action Plan


CUMBERLAND PLATEAU HERITAGE CORRIDOR
Tennessee State Scenic Parkways
Federal Highways (Interstate highways omitted)
State Highways


CUMBERLAND PLATEAU HERITAGE CORRIDOR
Tennessee State Bicycle Routes
Federal Highways (Interstate highways omitted)
State Highways

APPENDIX 2: SUPPORTING PARTNERS

PUBLIC SECTOR SUPPORTERS

The following governmentagencies have expressed their support through active membership of the Alliance for the Cumberlands, which is sponsoring this initiative:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Divisions of Natural Heritage and State Parks
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
University of Tennessee, Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries
Cumberland, Franklin, and Pickett Counties

Twelve county governments have passed resolutions containing the following language:

> Now, Therefore Be It Resolved by the Board of Commissioners of _____ County, Tennessee, that the Government of _____County shall:
>
> (1) Urge the United States Congress to enact legislation designating the Cumberland Plateau region, including _____ County, as a National Heritage Corridor;
>
> (2) Offer the County's support of the Cumberland Plateau Heritage Partnership;
>
> (3) Coordinate the County's relevant programs and projects with those of the Cumberland Plateau Heritage Partnership and with all relevant Federal, State, and local governments and non-profit organizations in the corridor; and
>
> (4) Work in cooperative partnerships with these agencies and entities in pursuit of the goals and objectives of the Cumberland Plateau National Heritage Corridor.

The counties which had passed this resolution at the time of this study's publication are:

Anderson	Morgan
Claiborne	Overton
Campbell	Pickett
Cumberland	Putnam
Fentress	Roane
Franklin	White

Support resolutions have also been passed by the cities of Pikeville, Pleasant Hill, and Monterey.

Letters of support and partnership have been received from the following Federal agency partners:

Reed Detring, Superintendent, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area and Obed National Wild and Scenic River
Mark H. Woods, Superintendent, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park
Elizabeth Crane, U.S. Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program
Lee Barclay, Field Office Supervisor for Tennessee, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The following additional government agencies have participated in the planning process of this study and expressed their support for the initiative during attendance at public workshops or meetings.

Federal and State Agencies

National Park Service, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area
National Park Service, Obed National Wild and Scenic River
Office of Surface Mining
Tennessee Valley Authority
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Forest Service, Daniel Boone National Forest
Kentucky Division of Water
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission
Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
Tennessee Department of Tourist Development
Tennessee Department of Transportation
Tennessee Historical Commission
Tennessee Technological University
University of Tennessee

County Governments

Bledsoe	Morgan
Grundy	Pickett
Hamilton	Scott
Marion	Sequatchie

Municipal Governments

Cookeville	Monteagle
Huntsville	Pleasant Hill

PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORTERS

The following non-profit organizations have expressed their support through active membership in the Alliance for the Cumberlands, which is sponsoring this initiative:

Borderlands Foundation
Cumberland Trail Conference
Emory River Watershed Association
Friends of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area
Friends of Cordell Hull State Park
Friends of South Cumberland State Recreation Area
Historic Rugby
Kentucky Natural Lands Trust
Land Trust for Tennessee
National Parks Conservation Association
New Heritage Research Group
Obed Watershed Community Association
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Round to It Recordings
Save Our Cumberland Mountains
Southern Environmental Law Center
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Tennessee Forestry Association
Tennessee Ornithological Society
Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation
Tennessee Preservation Trust
Tennessee Wildlife Federation
The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky Chapter
The Nature Conservancy, Tennessee Chapter
Upper Cumberland Development District
Upper Cumberland Tourism Association

The following organizations have participated in the planning process of this study and expressed their support for the initiative during attendance at public workshops.

Anderson County Tourism Council
Appalachian Heritage Foundation
Appalachian Arts Council
Big South Fork Watershed
Byrdstown-Pickett County Chamber of Commerce
Campbell County Chamber of Commerce
Center for Historic Preservation, Middle Tennessee State University
Cookeville Area-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce
Crossville Chamber of Commerce
Cumberland County Historian
Cumberland County Playhouse
Cumberland Homesteads
Cumberland River Compact
Dale Hollow Lake Tourism
Dogwood Alliance
Elgin Foundation
Emory River Watershed Association
Fentress County Historical Society
Fentress County Chamber of Commerce
Fireside Restaurant, Huntsville
First National Bank of Tennessee
Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
Franklin County Tennessee
Friends of Cumberland Mountain State Park
Friends of Standing Stone State Park
Grandview Heritage Foundation
Greeter Building Center, Inc.
Hamilton County Development Department
Jamestown Chamber of Commerce
Kentucky Society of Natural History
Lodge Manufacturing
Monteagle Inn
Morgan County Chamber of Commerce
National Coal Corp.
North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy
Oneida School Board
Plateau Properties, LLC
Pickett County Chamber of Commerce
Rails to Trails
Scott County Chamber of Commerce
Sequatchie County Chamber of Commerce
Sequatchie Valley Electric Cooperative
Southeast Tennessee Tourism Association
Southeast Tennessee Development District
Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association
Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area
Tennessee Clean Water Network
Tennessee Farm Bureau
Tennessee Forests Council
Tennessee Historical Society
Tennessee Nature Conservancy
Tennessee Ornithological Society
Tennessee River Gorge Trust
Tennessee Sierra Club
Tennessee Trail of Tears Association
University of the South
Upper Cumberland Chapter, Sierra Club

APPENDIX 3: CONTRIBUTORS

The preparers of this study wish to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their generous contributions of helpful information and assistance.

Becky Anderson, Director, Handmade in America

Lee Barclay, Field Office Supervisor for Tennessee, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Shawn Bible, Highway Beautification Office Coordinator, Tennessee Department of Transportation

Michael Birdwell, Ph.D., Director, Upper Cumberland Institute, Tennessee Technological University

Greer Broemel, Assistant Executive Director, Greater Nashville Regional Council

Bob Brown, Cumberland Trail Conference, Governor's Council on Greenways and Trails

Linda Caldwell, Executive Director, Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association

Brenda Cardwell, Friends of Scotts Gulf

Stuart Carroll, Interpretive Ranger, Fall Creek Falls State Park

Liz Crane, U.S. Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program

Charlene Perkins Cutler, Executive Director and CEO, Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc.

Pat Ezzell, Historian and Archivist, Tennessee Valley Authority

Charles Daugherty, Tennessee Forestry Association

Tom Dunigan, Ph.D., Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Tennessee

John T. Edge, Department of Southern Heritage and Cuisine, University of Mississippi

Jerry G. Fouse, Recreation Manager, Tennessee Valley Authority, Resource Stewardship

Susan Goldblatt, Director, Southeast Tennessee Tourism Association

Sandra Goss, Director, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning

Patricia Gray, Web Development, Marketing & Research, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development

Gina Hancock, Associate State Director, The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee

Benita Howell, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, American Studies Program, Department of Anthropology , University of Tennessee

Susan Hunter, Executive Assistant, Cumberland County Mayor's Office

John Rice Irwin, Founder, Museum of Appalachia

Jeanette Jones, GIS Specialist, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Annie McDonald, Preservation Planner, Southeast Tennessee Development District

David Michaels, Department of Anthropology , University of the South

Phil Noblet, Information Officer, Blue Ridge Parkway

Spencer Phillips, Ph.D., Resource Economist, Bolle Center for Forest Ecosystem Management

Mack Prichard, State Naturalist, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Dan Saieed, Director, Hamilton County Development Department

Barbara Q. Shoemaker, Friends of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Inc.

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APPENDIX 4: BIBLIOGRAPHY

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